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NATO admits three Eastern European states

MADRID (AP) — NATO, the Western bulwark that defended democracy in Europe for the past 48 years, invited three of its former communist enemies from Eastern Europe to join it yesterday in the first phase of enlargement.

The US imposed its will on its 15 NATO allies, pushing aside the preference of a majority which wanted to admit five new members, in favor of just Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

US President Bill Clinton called it "a very great day."

"We bridged the chasm in history and began the journey to a new Europe and a new century," said

Clinton, who had adamantly refused to consider more than three new members, fearing defeat in the US Senate.

France, backed by eight other NATO allies, fought hard for the admission of Romania and Slovenia, but bowed to the inevitable in the face of American pressure. Romania, Slovenia and the seven other countries that had sought admission will be reconsidered at a later date.

"The alliance expects to extend further invitations in coming years," said NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana at the end of a long day in which enlargement was the only subject the leaders dealt with.

"No European democratic country whose admission would fulfill the objectives of the [NATO] treaty will be excluded from consideration," he said.

Added Clinton: "These are the countries that have proved their readiness to join us at this table."

President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland said: "We are very happy with the decision of today. Poland waited so long and now the doors to full NATO membership are open. We are very satisfied and are ready to go forward."

Slovenia Prime Minister Janez Drnousek said: "We expect to be included very soon, one year or

perhaps two years from now."

His foreign minister, Zoran Thaler, complained that "Slovenia has not been given any good explanation as to why it is out."

The US was worried that an initial enlargement of more than three countries would threaten the chances of getting the two-thirds vote in the US Senate needed to ratify any change to the NATO treaty. The parliaments of all 16 current NATO members must approve the new members.

France's backers believe Europe's southern flank is the most volatile region and that early admission of Romania and Slovenia would have

added stability.

French President Jacques Chirac was stoic in defeat.

"We should look at this meeting as an evolution," he said. "It's an important step we couldn't have imagined two or three years ago."

Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van Mierlo said Germany gave up first in the battle for five, then they all fell to the American steamroller.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who was born in the Czech Republic, said NATO had reversed what the Soviet Union had done "salami slice by salami slice" by taking in the three former Warsaw Pact nations.



Sword of peace
Jordanian chief of staff Field Marshal Abdul-Hafez Ka'abneh (left) presents an Arabian sword to Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, when the two met in Amman yesterday. It was the first visit by an IDF chief of staff to an Arab country. Story, Page 14.

PM to present ministers today

By LIAT COLLINS

The new government line-up will be presented this morning to the Knesset for its endorsement, having been postponed from yesterday by a legal technicality.

As part of the cabinet-resuffle discussions, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had promised the National Religious Party late Monday night that he would hold special consultations with it before presenting the next budget.

Knesset legal adviser Zvi Inbar ruled that this promise constitutes a change to the coalition agreement, which by law must be submitted to the Knesset for perusal 24 hours before it is voted on.

Since it was only submitted to the Knesset yesterday at 10 a.m., it can be voted on only today; and since the NRP's support for the reshuffle was conditioned on it, the whole process was postponed.

MK Shaul Amor (Likud), who was not named science minister as he had hoped to be, said he would decide only just before the appointments are presented how he would vote. Netanyahu promised him he would make every effort to make Amor a minister, which would mean trying to change the law that limits the cabinet to 18 ministers.

See MINISTERS, Page 2

PA Police intervene in Russian Church property dispute in Hebron

By HAIM SHAPIRO

In an unprecedented action, the Palestinian Police this weekend broke into the Russian Orthodox Abraham's Oak Monastery in Hebron, evicted the clerics of the New York-based Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, and turned it over to representatives of the Moscow-based church.

The action, a representative of the Russian-based church said yesterday, was the result of a promise made by Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to Patriarch of Moscow Alexei II

Ben-Porat to make announcement on Tze'elim-2 accident

By Jerusalem Post Staff

State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat is to make an announcement today about the Tze'elim-2 case — a 1992 training accident that killed five soldiers and wounded six, and from which some said then chief of general staff Ezer Weizman fled, abandoning wounded men. The announcement will be made at the State Control Committee meeting.

The announcement will deal with events that occurred immediately after the tragedy, which resulted when a missile was launched by mistake.

At a news conference in May, at

which she presented the annual State Comptroller's Report, Ben-Porat said she was deliberating whether she had the tools to explore the sensitive issue of the evacuation of wounded soldiers, since it required detailed fact verification, as in a judicial inquiry.

Recently, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, speaking from the Knesset podium, accused current Labor Party leader Barak of running away from the scene.

Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, who was Barak's deputy and also witnessed the accident, said any claims that Barak abandoned wounded were a lie.

Cabinet meetings now back to Sunday

By JAY BUSHINSKY

In a gesture to the cabinet's Shabbat observers, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu decided yesterday to convene the weekly cabinet meetings on Sunday mornings instead of on Fridays, as has been

First Beduin woman accepted to med school

By JUDY SIEGEL

Rania Oqbe, an 18-year-old living in Rahat whose grandparents lived in tents and tended camels, will be the first Beduin woman in Israel to study medicine. Oqbe was accepted by Ben-Gurion University's medical school after successfully meeting all requirements and taking part in a special 18-month BGU medical school course for Beduin teenagers.

"I've wanted to be a doctor since I was a small child," said Oqbe,

who was informed of her admission by an Arab physician who headed the course.

She said she hopes to specialize in pediatrics and to treat Beduin youngsters.

"The acceptance of a Beduin woman by our medical school constitutes an important breakthrough," said BGU president Avishay Braverman, who added that he hopes the number of Beduin students will grow.

See BEDUIN, Page 2

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NEWS

in brief

Police to probe Ramat Shlomo apartment sales

The National Fraud Squad is opening an investigation into reports that ineligible individuals illegally purchased government-subsidized apartments in Jerusalem's Ramat Shlomo neighborhood.

According to a Channel 1 report last week, 40 percent of the apartments in the religious neighborhood were sold to people who failed to meet Housing Ministry criteria.

Among those who allegedly bought the apartments illegally are Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai and relatives of Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush. *Jim*

Fire in Tel Aviv's Shalom Tower

Firefighters quickly put out a blaze in Tel Aviv's Shalom Tower yesterday afternoon. The fire, which apparently was caused by an electrical short, began on the 23rd floor and spread to the 24th, while smoke spread throughout the structure. All the occupants were evacuated, with a helicopter rescuing some from the building's roof. One woman was lightly injured by smoke inhalation and the building was only slightly damaged. *Jim*

Boy killed by tractor

A 16-year-old boy was run over by a tractor yesterday on Moshav Talmel Eliahu.

Police said the tractor driver told them that the youth, who was working with him on the combine, said he was getting off to urinate. The tractor-driver continued working, but when he turned around, noticed the boy's body had gotten caught between the plow-shaft of the vehicle and the combine.

Police detained the driver for questioning. *Jim*

Ministry: Bezeq 'forcing' callers to pay more

The Communications Ministry last night accused Bezeq International of playing a "dirty trick" that has deprived callers from enjoying the low overseas phone rates it is advertising: anyone who dials 014 or 00 will be paying almost the same high rates as before the field was opened to competition, the ministry said. Only those who "register" through 188 - which is so busy it's almost impossible to reach - can get the low rates. Minister Limor Livnat, who learned of the "trick" after receiving complaints and reports from ministry monitors, demanded that this "flagrant violation of agreements" cease. No comment was available from the Bezeq International spokeswoman. *Judy Siegel*

PM's new adviser, Uzi Arad, meets Ross

Prime Minister Netanyahu's new political adviser Uzi Arad had a two-hour get-acquainted meeting in Washington Monday night with US peace coordinator Dennis Ross. He also met with AIPAC leaders and the Washington Post editorial board. *Hillel Kuntler*

JNF worker stabbed

A Jewish National Fund worker was stabbed yesterday near Latrun.

The motive for the stabbing is not clear and police are investigating the relationship between the victim, who was drunk, and the alleged attacker. *Jim*

Netanyahu vows to mend coalition fences

By LIAT COLLINS

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday told a meeting of Likud-Gesher-Tsomet MKs that he intends to rectify the coalition's problems. Gesher MKs turned out in force, including Foreign Minister David Levy. Several MKs complained of a lack of coordination and cooperation between the government and their Knesset party.

According to an official briefing, Netanyahu replied that he would be "very happy" if the expanded Likud faction in the Knesset held regular weekly meetings with him and the principal ministers, including the defense, foreign affairs and justice ministers.

"A body which does not heal itself

will remain sick; a body which deals only with itself will die," he said.

"There are defects which need mending," he said, adding that he intends to hold meetings with the heads of other coalition parties to help preserve coalition discipline.

"The events of the past three weeks have distracted us from the main issues," he said. "We live in a media atmosphere which continually raises clouds of dust that hide our achievements." He spoke of the free market and the fight against terror.

He said there are challenges facing the coalition, particularly the conversion bill and the national budget.

In conclusion he said: "This government has been eulogized many times. I like to disappoint eulogizers. The best way is by working together."

With great sorrow we announce the passing of our dear husband, father, brother and grandfather

SOLOMON (Shlomo Shprechman) NIVY ז"ל

The funeral will take place on Friday, July 11, 1997 at 10:30 a.m. at the New Cemetery Kfar Nachman, Petanana.

Shiva at the Nivy apartment at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Herzliya

Wife: Aliza Nivy
Daughters: Yona Nivy and James Clarke
Bat-Sheva Nivy and Aaron Lerner
Grandchildren: Erik and Joshua Nivy Clarke
Hannah Noa and Gil Or Lerner
Sisters: Miriam Karel and Yocheved Nivy

To Jeffrey Phillips and Family

We share in your grief on the tragic loss of your daughter

DANIELLE ז"ל

Management and Staff
Anglo-Saxon Netanya

We deeply mourn the passing of our husband, father and grandfather

AVRAHAM MASKALCHI ז"ל

The funeral took place yesterday.

His wife, Leah
His sons, Avshal, Eli, Rafi,
Gael and Yehoshua Maskalchi
His daughter, Nareh
and his grandchildren
Shiva at 49 Rahel Imenu, Jerusalem.

Mordechai: No alternative to IDF in south Lebanon

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The IDF must stay and continue fighting in Lebanon for a long time, despite the heavy price it has to pay, because there is no other viable alternative, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday during a visit to the Tel Nof air base.

Mordechai was visiting the base together with Communications

Minister Limor Livnat.

In what has become his mantra, Mordechai said that a unilateral withdrawal of troops from Lebanon is out of the question at this time and could only be accompanied by a political solution.

Mordechai told reporters the IDF actions in Lebanon were allowing the residents of the North to live normal lives.

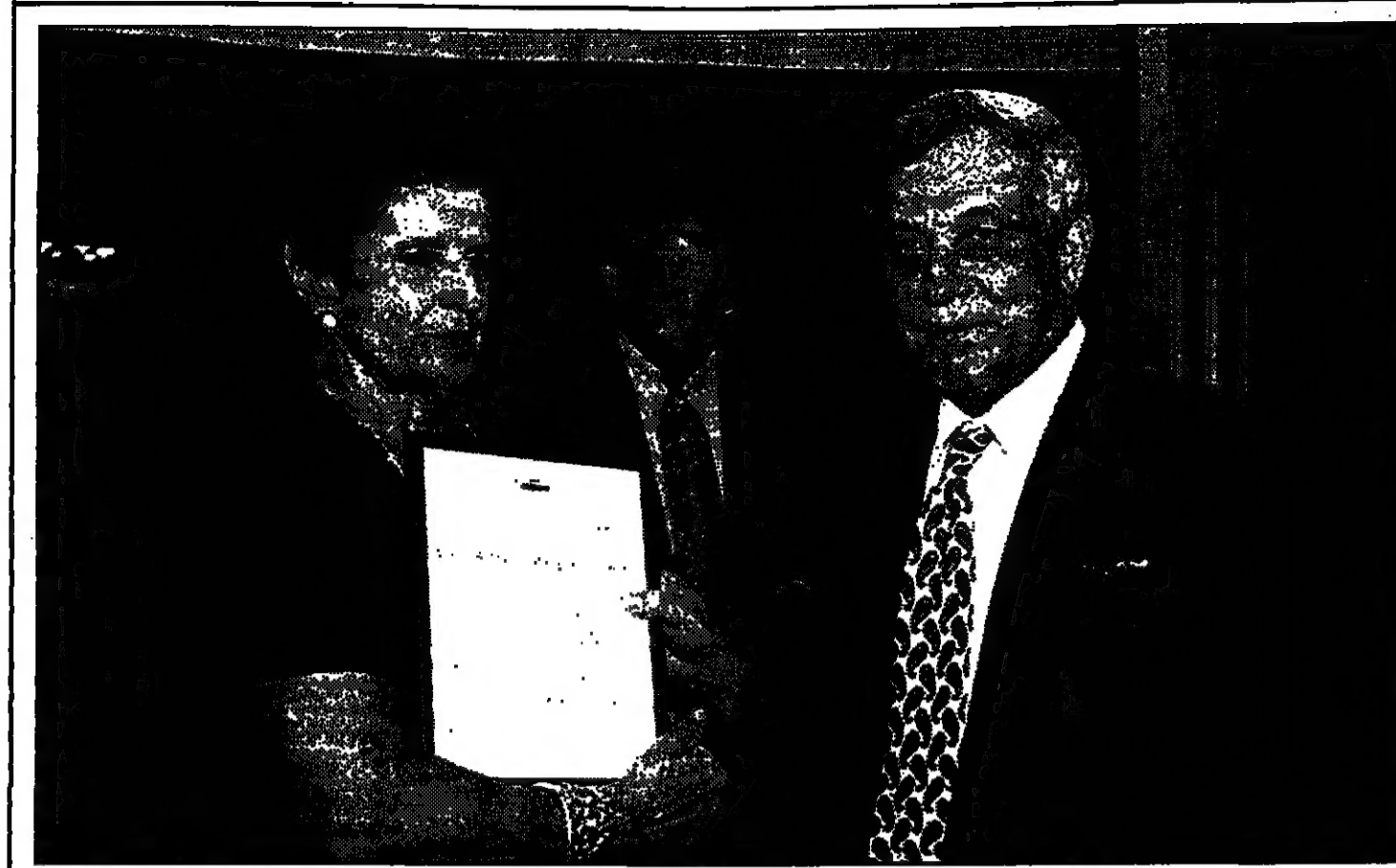
"Were it not for the persistent

activity of the IDF on the air, sea, and ground in south Lebanon, then in my opinion living there would be drastically different," Mordechai said. "To my regret the price is very high."

"We want to renew the dialogue with the Syrians," he said. "We will make any move which can restart the process. But I also want to be realistic. It seems to me that as of today we will have to continue

to fight in south Lebanon for a very long period in order to live normal lives in the North. It is at a heavy and difficult price, but I don't see at this time any other way or solution."

Mordechai also said he did not believe the recent fighting in south Lebanon signaled an escalation in the situation there since no Hizbullah fire was directed at Israeli settlements.



Fulbright-Rabin recipients

Leah Rabin hands Prof. Ephraim Yuchtman Year a certificate naming him as one of the first two recipients of the Fulbright-Yitzhak Rabin Award, as US Ambassador Martin Indyk looks on. The ceremony took place at Indyk's Herzliya residence yesterday. The award, in prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's memory, will allow Year, head of Tel Aviv University's Tami Steinmetz Center for Peace Research, and Dr. Lev Luis Grinberg, senior lecturer in behavioral sciences at Ben-Gurion University, to conduct research and lecture in the US on conflict resolution and civic education. (Assaf Shilo/Israel Sun)

Israel: Lebanon violated Grapes of Wrath deal

By DAVID RUDGE

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai visited the North yesterday after heavy fighting this week killed an IDF officer and Katyusha rockets fell in Western Galilee.

Mordechai received a briefing on the situation in the north of Israel at the headquarters of Northern Command, and later visited the site, along the border in the Western Galilee area, where a Katyusha fell on Sunday night - a clear breach of the understandings that ended the Grapes of Wrath cross-border fighting last April.

The five-nation Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee discussed two complaints from Israel relating to Hizbullah shelling along the border in the early hours of last Thursday and on Sunday night.

Israel's delegation to the monitoring group charged that these attacks not only breached the understandings, but were intended to escalate fighting in the region.

The delegation warned that such attacks in the past had brought about a dangerous deterioration in the situation and caused widespread fighting.

Lebanon in turn complained of two incidents, one last Wednesday and the other on Sunday, in which four Lebanese civilians were wounded after IDF shells hit villages north of the security zone.

Israel maintained the firing was in self-defense after Hizbullah gunmen fired from the vicinity of villages and had thereby deliberately endangered civilians.

The Israeli delegation stressed that the IDF took all necessary precautions to avoid harming civilians.

The committee reiterated the need for all the sides involved to safeguard the security of civilians on both sides of the border.

Amor: I was tricked out of the science minister's post

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Likud MK Shaul Amor, who was offered the post of science minister by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday night, said yesterday that he had been tricked out of the position and is unsure whether to support the government in today's vote on the new cabinet appointments.

"In this government they don't tell the truth," a bitterly disappointed Amor said yesterday, adding that Netanyahu doesn't keep his promises and hinting that he had lost faith in the prime minister.

Evading the question of whether he had confidence in Netanyahu, Amor replied,

"I have confidence only in myself. Some say I'm naive, but I've been made to look pathetic. But I'm neither naive, nor pathetic. I'm just a man who has been tricked out of the science minister's post."

Asked how he would vote today, Amor said, "I'm still considering what to do. Because I want to ask, has thou murdered and inherited too?" referring to the way he has been treated.

It is not clear whether Amor will join the internal opposition in the Likud, or remain loyal to Netanyahu in the hope the premier will appoint him minister without portfolio, as the prime minister said he would. But coalition sources said that

since Netanyahu's promise would require legislation to allow the cabinet to be expanded, it is a promise not likely to be kept.

At 9 o'clock Monday night Amor went into Netanyahu's office and announced that he agreed to be science minister in rotation with MK Michael Eitan, as the prime minister had offered him earlier in the day.

"Too late," he was told, MK Silvan Shalom was here first and he got the job. Shalom, who had refused the rotation deal earlier, had changed his mind while Amor was thinking the proposition over.

"I was informed that I would be science minister by rotation, after MK Michael

Eitan," explained Amor. "It's not true that I turned it down. I only took two minutes to consult with my family and friends. But here, too, they played a trick on me."

Amor would not confirm a report that at a meeting with Netanyahu later that night, he had told Netanyahu "you lied to me."

"The facts speak for themselves. From the beginning of his term Netanyahu has offered me the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, the Health Ministry, the post of Knesset Speaker, the presidency and half the science portfolio. Five promises, all broken," he said.

He admitted, however, that he said some "harsh" things to the prime minister "but they will stay between us," he said.

Re'em touts Sharon as Likud's next leader

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Likud MK David Re'em yesterday named National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon as a candidate for the Likud's leadership in the next elections, instead of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, stating that if the Likud wants to beat Labor's new chief Ehud Barak, it must find an alternative to its current leader.

"We cannot afford to enter the next elections while Netanyahu... is leading us. We must oppose Barak with a candidate who can unite all the right-wing forces and

win," Re'em said.

Sharon emphasized yesterday that he was "not angry" at the appointment of Ya'acov Ne'eman as finance minister, but his aides made it clear that pushing Sharon out of the position at the last minute was a "dirty trick."

Sharon's aides pointed an accusing finger at the prime minister, who initiated the move, and those who assisted him in carrying it out. Sharon would react in his own time, and in his own way, they said.

They pointed out that Sharon believed until Sunday night that

the finance post was his. A press conference had already been scheduled for Monday morning to officially announce the appointment. Only after midnight did he receive a call from the Prime Minister's Office telling him that Ne'eman was making his acceptance of the post conditional on Sharon's support.

The next day a fuming Sharon learned that several people had been in on the "dirty trick": Netanyahu, Foreign Minister David Levy, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, President Ezer Weizman and Shas leader

Aryeh Deri.

"But Sharon is very patient. He will not sulk, like Levy. He will bide his time," one of his supporters said. He noted that Sharon was the one who helped Netanyahu form the Likud coalition by bringing Gesher back, and the one who secured the haredi support for Netanyahu in the elections. Only two weeks ago he helped keep the coalition together in the face of a non-confidence motion.

Re'em, a Sharon supporter, said there are several good candidates who can challenge Netanyahu for the Likud leadership, including

Sharon, Dan Meridor, Yitzhak Mordechai and Ehud Olmert.

He said "the government is like a punctured repair shop. When it has no way or direction, they go around fixing punctures."

Re'em charged Netanyahu with systematically keeping the Likud's most able members away from senior party positions from his first day in office.

"First it was Benny Begin and Dan Meridor, and now Sharon, who is not only being kept out of the Treasury, but away from negotiations with the Palestinians as well," he said.

BEDUIN

Continued from Page 1

Oqbe - who lives in a three-room apartment with her mother, two brothers, and three sisters - studies science, and other subjects "at night, when everyone's asleep and it's quiet." Her favorite classes are in physics, mathematics, English, and the biological sciences.

Her mother and the rest of her family were at first reluctant to have her study at the university - let alone in medical school - but now, she says, they are very proud and supportive. She will spend seven years studying at BGU, followed by more time interning at a hospital.

The special BGU course, which included 27 youngsters, "was difficult, but it bolstered my determination to study medicine," she said.

MINISTERS

Continued from Page 1

However, it is doubtful that this would pass, as it needs a 61 MK majority on three readings, which will be very difficult to muster. Third Way whip Yehuda Harel said yesterday his party will not support a change in the law. Gesher MKs announced yesterday that if Amor is brought into the government they would demand a minister from their faction also be added.

The three Likud MKs nicknamed "the rebels" - Dan Meridor, Ze'ev Begin, and David Re'em - are considered unlikely to support the new appointments.

MK Shmaryahu Ben-Tzur (National Religious Party) is also threatening to vote against the appointments today. He is demanding that there be no cuts in the education budget and is making his support conditional on that. The prime minister is expected to try to persuade Ben-Tzur to support the appointments.

In any case, Netanyahu seems assured to get a majority in today's vote, which would make Ya'acov Ne'eman finance minister, Michael Eitan, science minister, and Silvan Shalom, deputy defense minister.

Under the agreement, a Gesher

MONASTERY

Continued from Page 1

According to Archimandrite Bartholomew, head of the New York-based mission, for over a month, Palestinian security forces had visited the monastery almost daily, demanding that the residents leave.

On Saturday, he said, the Palestinian Police broke into the living quarters and demanded that the three priests and four monks there gather their belongings and leave. The latter refused to do so. Meanwhile, Bartholomew himself arrived with two nuns.

Bartholomew said representatives of the Russian-based church and the Russian consulate watched as Palestinian policemen dragged the clerics from the building. Women police officers, assisted by

their male counterparts, dragged and beat the nuns, he said, adding that one nun had been hospitalized.

According to a press release issued on Monday by Archbishop Lauros, secretary of the New York-based Church Synod of Bishops, the Church is an American legal church body, incorporated under the laws of the state of New York. However, a US consular official in Jerusalem said yesterday that there was no reason for the consulate to interfere in the matter. Ann Casper, deputy head of the consulate's press section, said the consulate had a duty to see that American citizens were treated justly under local laws, but no such protection extended to a church.

Palestinian Authority spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh said yesterday that he was not aware of the incident, but that in principle the PA did not interfere in church affairs.

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מזמור תהלים

NEWS

in brief

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to meet chief rabbi

Former NBA star Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, whose father helped liberate Buchenwald at the end of World War II, has asked to meet Chief Rabbi Yisroel Lau, who was an inmate there.

The 7-foot-2 Abdul-Jabbar is visiting Israel this week to promote a street ball tournament, and will meet with Lau and other Buchenwald survivors tomorrow.

Born Lew Alcindor, Abdul-Jabbar converted to Islam in the 1970s, and is expected to visit Jerusalem's holy Moslem sites on Friday. He is being hosted by Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert. AP

Duty-free shops set to catch shoplifters

The duty-free shops at Ben-Gurion Airport are getting ready for the summer rush by hiring plainclothes detectives to catch shoplifters. James Richardson, the duty-free company, announced yesterday. With thousands more travelers passing through the airport, the company also has hired additional cashiers and sales personnel and given its employees a crash course on identifying counterfeit money, especially dollars, the company said. Haim Shapiro

Hammer orders response to Peled committee

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer yesterday ordered his advisers to prepare a document in response to the Peled Commission report, which had recommended revolutionary changes in communications in Israel. Hammer, who bears ministerial responsibility for Educational Television, Channel 2, and the regional radio stations, wants to take a close look at the full impact implementation of those recommendations will have on communications here. Aryeh Dean Cohen

Murderer gets life sentence

Beersheba District Court yesterday gave Ben Levy, 23, of Givatayim, a life sentence for the murder of Shlomo Kohner. Levy moved to Eilat in September 1994 and, while he was looking for a job, stayed with Kohner, who was a friend of his father. Levy stabbed Kohner to death after Kohner tried to force Levy to perform homosexual acts on him. Izm

Knesset c'tee to discourage female circumcision

Though female circumcisions almost completely ended among Ethiopian Jews after they immigrated to Israel, it is still practiced among the Beduin, experts told the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women yesterday.

Medical experts said the female circumcisions done in neighboring countries are vastly different from those performed on Beduin women, who undergo a symbolic "purification" rite that does not cause any physical damage and is legal.

However, the committee decided to embark on a publicity campaign to discourage the rite. Jerusalem Post Staff

15-year-old undergoes heart transplant

A 15-year-old girl from the center of the country was in very critical condition at Tel Hashomer's Sheba Hospital last night after undergoing an emergency heart transplant; she was only the fifth teenager in the world to have such surgery. Judy Siegel

Health Ministry again to fund school health services

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Health Ministry is again responsible for providing medical services in the schools, after the service - provided for over a year by contractors at municipal expense - failed to satisfy parents and health officials.

The Parents Association had refused to pay an extra fee for immunizations and health check-ups in the schools, arguing that such care was supposed to be included in the basket of health services set by the National Health Insurance Law and financed by the health funds. However, the insurers demanded extra funds and none were forthcoming.

The municipalities then sent in nurses and doctors employed by contracting firms, who provided care that was heavily criticized.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza yesterday announced that after a long struggle, the Treasury had approved the allocation of NIS 68 million for the Health Ministry to provide medical services to pupils. These will be provided by local community health nurses and doctors - some of them provided by manpower firms - under strict ministry supervision, Matza said.

The new arrangement will be in place by the time school opens again in September.

Armed squatters retake Mevasseret flats

By JONATHAN TEPPERMAN and AVI LEVY

Armed squatters smashed doors and used power tools to reenter apartments in the Mevasseret Zion absorption center early Tuesday morning. The homeless families had been evicted by police on Friday, but remained in the area and met little resistance from watching border police and Jewish Agency guards as they moved back in.

The cabinet is scheduled to discuss the issue on Friday.

Meanwhile, the government wants to avoid a repeat of last week's confrontation, which turned violent when police tried to displace the desperate families. Though the eviction was successful in the short term, several people (including MK Maxim Levy and his driver) were hospitalized for injuries received in the melee.

Eldad Hadar, the Jewish Agency's spokesman for the absorption center, said the agency "hopes that, contrary to the publicity in the media, no order has been given by any political echelon to leave the squatters in the apart-

ments."

Just such an order seems to have been issued, however. According to Rafi Levy, spokesman for the Ministry of Internal Security, Minister Avigdor Kahalani on Tuesday told police not to use force to restrain or evict the squatters.

"Right now, Mevasseret is calm, and we want it to remain that way," said Levy. "We're not going to evict them until a formal [cabinet] decision is made, which I hope will involve a compromise."

Michel Ben-Ami, a spokesman for Gesher MK Maxim Levy

(Chairman of the Labor and Social Welfare Committee), said the topic "will be a big part of Friday's meeting. This is because Gesher supports the squatters' claim."

For now, the Mevasseret Zion squatters are making themselves at home. By noon on Tuesday, they had already cleaned and moved into approximately 90 of the dwellings, which are meant to house new immigrants. Ayala Miro said that she already had put her clothes in the closets, and was expecting a new refrigerator later that day.

"Of course, we're waiting for [Prime Minister Benjamin] Bibi [Netanyahu's] decision on Friday," she said, "but we're 99 percent sure he'll let us stay."

Meanwhile, Netanyahu and Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush yesterday announced a program to dismantle all but two of the caravan sites. Except for Ethiopian immigrants who arrived here after June 30, 1993, all residents of caravan sites will receive a combination of grants and loans that will allow them to buy their own homes.

Florida death shows links to Israeli organized crime

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (AP) - Detectives investigating the murder of the owner of a Florida hotel are looking for connections to Israeli organized crime after an informant claimed Israeli underworld members may have wanted the owner dead.

Zvika Yuz was pulled into his Ramada Sea Club Ocean Resort in May when he was gunned down by a killer wearing a fake beard and carrying a doll.

The slaying has yet to be solved but has exposed connections that lead to the crime underworld in Israel. Yuz had business ties to many on a list of 11 top Israeli organized crime figures, *The Miami Herald* reported Monday.

Yuz had predicted he would be killed on the orders of "one of the most dangerous men in the whole east of the United States," a federal informant told the newspaper.

Fort Lauderdale Police haven't identified any suspects, but investigators have dozens of leads.

Among the leads detectives are pursuing: a possible connection to a Yuz associate found dead last month in Georgia.

Isaac Benarroch, 64, also was being sought for questioning in Yuz's murder because of some threatening letters he sent Yuz four years ago. Benarroch was among the 1,600 investors who lost \$300 million in one of the largest fraud schemes in Florida history - Premium Sales Corp.

The business failed in 1993. Yuz, who was never charged, had collected \$22m. in investments from influential Israeli figures who wanted their money back.

Among those linked to the Israeli most-wanted list of 11 are Eli Tisona, now in the federal lockup in Miami awaiting trial on money-laundering charges, and Ilan Kashti, 61, an Israeli jeweler in Miami who has pleaded guilty to laundering millions for the Cali drug cartel.

Kashti has turned government informant in exchange for the possibility of a reduced sentence. He says the Israeli syndicate's Florida operation centers on Tisona and says Yuz was killed on orders from Tisona, either because of unpaid debts or because Yuz was standing in the way of the sale of the Ramada Sea Club Ocean Resort.



Righteous Gentile visits Knesset

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon greets Irene Gut Opdyke during her visit to the Knesset yesterday. In 1982, Opdyke was named a Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem for saving 12 Jews during the Holocaust by hiding them in a Ukrainian villa where she worked as a housekeeper for a Nazi major. Opdyke, 76, a Polish-born Christian, now lives in Yorba Linda, California. (Isaac Harel)

Hammer asks 50th anniversary committee to ensure no ethnic group is forgotten

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer yesterday asked Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, who heads the Ministerial Committee on Symbols and Celebrations to look into complaints made by members of the Public Council to Advance Culture in Development Towns and Poor Neighborhoods about the planned celebrations to mark Israel's 50th anniversary.

Education Ministry Deputy Director-General Menachem Cohen sent a letter on the matter to Katsav, Prime Minister's Office, Director-General Avigdor Lieberman, chairman of the

body organizing the celebrations, Yossi Peled, and its director-general, Haim Slutsky.

In the letter, he said: "Members of the council, among them artists who've made significant contributions to Israeli culture, claim the program of events, as currently set, does not adequately express Israeli culture in a way which includes ethnic groups' culture and heritage."

"I would like to say in praise of the council's actions," Cohen wrote, "that in recent years there has indeed been real progress in the fields of culture and art in all areas in the develop-

ment towns and needy neighborhoods, and tens of thousands of Israelis, some for the first time, have been exposed to cultural activities."

Cohen said Hammer believes the organizers of the celebrations should find a way to express this positive turn of events in Israel.

"There must be a real consensus surrounding the program of festivities marking the nation's 50th anniversary, and we must ensure that no group feels discriminated against or forgotten in them. The celebrations are everyone's and this is how they must appear," he wrote. (Izm)

Bloodied pig's head found at builder's door

Residents of a prestigious Ramat Gan apartment block were stunned to wake up yesterday morning and find a blood-drenched pig's head outside the door of their neighbor, builder Avi Koven.

At around 7 a.m., Hanan Rosen, the mayor's advisor on art, and the Czech honorary consul left their sixth-floor apartments in the Le'an Street building and discovered the gory scene outside Koven's apartment on the same floor. The stairwell window had been smashed earlier and unknown persons had left the bloodied head.

Police believe the motive for the gross act is related to money owed by Koven's company. Neighbors reported that on many occasions lately Koven had had visitors, often late at night, demanding money owed them after Koven's checks had bounced.

"One time," a neighbor recalled, "someone buzzed my apartment at around 10 p.m. and said he had nothing to eat. He asked me to let him in so he could get money

Koven owed him after a check he had been given had bounced."

Police presence was strong at the building, as they examined neighbors' cars for tampering. One tenant said she was afraid to leave her apartment.

"I'm scared this is a sign that a bomb is going to be left here next time," she said. "I'm even scared to park my car downstairs. I feel sorry for Koven and his wife, and especially his two daughters who had to witness this disgusting scene."

Koven refused to comment on the incident to the press.

This is not the first time the building's tenants have experienced drama. In the 1970s, one of their neighbors was Meir Lansky, an alleged American mafia leader. Lansky was deported and allowed to return only in 1979, after lawyer Yoram Shefiel successfully appealed to the High Court to overturn the interior minister's deportation order. Lansky died before returning. (Izm)

Ben-Ari remanded for seven more days

A Petah Tikva District Court judge extended the remand of Zvi Ben-Ari (Gregory Lerner) yesterday by only another seven days. Lerner has been in police custody since May 12 on suspicion of massive bank fraud and involvement in a murder.

Meanwhile, Labor leader Ehud Barak was questioned by police yesterday in connection with the Lerner affair. Izm

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"One time," a neighbor recalled, "someone buzzed my apartment at around 10 p.m. and said he had nothing to eat. He asked me to let him in so he could get money

Clinton kangaroo from A

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) - If U.S. President Bill Clinton is to be a new Australian addition to the kangaroo and emu on the coat of arms, the move would be a first for the world's most powerful nation.

The move, which would be a first for the world's most powerful nation, was expected to be handled by the Australian government.

Clinton is expected to be the only foreign leader to be featured on the new coat of arms, which is set to be unveiled in 2001.

The new coat of arms is set to be unveiled in 2001.

Mexico ruling party loses Congress, ending 70-year reign

By JULIA PRESTON

MEXICO CITY (New York Times) — The governing party that controlled Mexican politics for seven decades lost command of the national Congress in elections, official results showed, on Monday. Its defeat brought an end to single-party rule in Mexico and ushered in an era of pluralistic give-and-take.

With 84 percent of the ballots from Sunday's vote counted at mid-afternoon on Monday, the governing Institutional Revolutionary Party had gained only 38 percent of the vote for the lower house of the legislature, failing to win a majority for the first time since its founding in 1929.

The combined vote for the two main opposition parties gave them 52 percent, the tally showed.

"For the first time, we will have a real balance of power," said Enrique Krauze, a

leading historian of Mexico's political life. "We will have checks and balances, and the president will be accountable."

The voters, in their wrath against a pandemic of official corruption, also put an end to the impunity that politicians of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, known as the PRI, have long had.

The lower house of Congress has the power to investigate malfeasance by public officials, and opposition leaders said on Monday that they intended to use that power fully to investigate scandals and punish past and present officials of the government and its party.

The watershed that resulted from the elections brought both opportunities and perils, political analysts said. The vote tally shows that the opposition is nearly evenly divided between two parties on different sides of the political spectrum that have shown limited ability in the past to work together.

The big winner was the Party of the Democratic Revolution, which supports a major role for the government in the economy and is skeptical of close relations with the United States. On Sunday, the party gained 26 percent of the national vote, after winning barely 17 percent in 1994 presidential elections.

The party's founding leader, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Solorzano, won a victory in the race for the powerful post of mayor of Mexico City, with 47 percent of the vote.

But the second largest force in the Congress and the country, after the Institutional Revolutionary Party, is the conservative National Action Party, known as the PAN. It is a party with strong Catholic influence that opposes statist economic policies and is comfortable with strong political ties with the United States.

The PAN won 27 percent in the lower house of Congress, known as the Chamber

of Deputies.

Opposition leaders said they did not expect broad alliances between parties. Instead, they expect to operate through tactical agreements based on the issues at hand.

"We will bargain and agree on the issues," said Porfirio Munoz Ledo, a leading member of the Party of the Democratic Revolution who was elected to the Congress. "We are going to play the parliamentary game."

"This is a velvet revolution," said Amalia Garcia, another leading member of the party. "The Mexican people voted to take away the PRI's bulldozer. Never again can the president impose his will on the legislature."

All three parties, as well as President Ernesto Zedillo, are venturing into new terrain for Mexico, that of political negotiation and compromise.

Lutherans hold first post-UK event in Hong Kong

By JOHN LEICESTER

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong played host yesterday to its first major international event since its handover to China: a gathering of Lutherans from around the world that Chinese officials once tried to postpone.

Chinese officials in Hong Kong had earlier expressed concern that the Lutheran World Federation assembly was taking place too soon after Hong Kong's return from British to Chinese sovereignty last week.

Chinese officials also were concerned about whether Taiwanese delegates at the meeting would display their national flag, said Dr. Ishmael Noko, the LWF's general secretary.

"People can use this gathering for political reasons. They were worried about that," Noko said.

For China, which considers Taiwan a rebel province, any display of the red-and-blue Taiwanese flag smacks of recognizing the island as a separate state.

Noko said the Lutherans had assured Chinese officials that Taiwanese delegates would be identified only with labels saying which church they came from. He said they also explained they could not postpone the nine-day assembly.

"We never compromised anything," Noko said. "We couldn't hesitate to meet here because there's a transition." The Chinese request for a postponement, which Noko said was discussed in meetings last year, had raised concerns that China might renege on promises to protect Hong Kong's religious freedoms after the handover.

But Noko said he was hopeful religious freedom would continue

in Hong Kong. He urged China to be given the benefit of the doubt.

The Lutheran World Federation has met every six or seven years since it was inaugurated in Lund, Sweden, in 1947.

Noko said nearly 400 delegates from 122 member churches were expected for the assembly, the federation's first in Asia, to celebrate its 50th anniversary, worship together and discuss the church's future as it heads into the new millennium.

Delegates also plan to discuss Christianity in China, although Noko said he expected no problems with Beijing.

"We intend to speak responsibly, freely, without antagonizing anybody," he said.

The Communist Party insists on controlling all church activity in China, outside of Hong Kong. Worshipers who refuse to join government-controlled churches have been jailed and harassed, and Roman Catholics are barred from contact with the Vatican.

Leaders of two state-controlled groups that run China's Protestant churches insisted Monday that China has complete religious freedom and denied that independent religious activists are systematically attacked.

There is no general persecution in China, but China being so vast, you cannot expect the policy of religious freedom to be applied completely everywhere," said Han Wenzao, president of the Chinese Christian Council.

A representative from the council is expected to attend the Lutheran gathering. Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong's new leader, has also been invited to give a welcoming address, but Noko said it was unclear whether he would be able to find time.

Bomb kills 24 on northern India train

By DEEPAK SHARMA

AMRITSAR, India (AP) — A bomb exploded on a moving express train in the northern Indian state of Punjab yesterday, killing at least 24 passengers and wounding 65 others, police and doctors said.

The blast occurred soon after the five-car Ganganagar-Ambala commuter train with 500 people on board left the railroad station of Bhatinda, 197 kilometers west of Amritsar, police constable Parshna Singh said.

"We do not have very much details, but the blast was so powerful that it ripped one car in which the bomb was kept," Singh said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Punjab was the scene of a 10-year separatist revolt by Sikh militants who wanted to carve out an independent homeland. The rebellion was crushed in the early 1990s, but sporadic violence continues.

Twenty-two of yesterday's train bombing victims died at the scene, and two children died later at Bhatinda District Hospital, according to Avtar Singh Sekhon, a doctor at the hospital. He said 65 people were admitted with injuries, and 22 of those were in serious condition.

Yesterday's blast was the fourth in Punjab this year.

Eight people died in the last bombing, on June 6, which is observed as the beginning of "Genocide Week" by Sikhs. It marks the June 6, 1984, raid on the Golden Temple in Amritsar to flush out Sikh militants engaged in an armed revolt for independence. Two Sikh bodyguards assassinated Prime Minister Indira Gandhi two months later in revenge.

A total of 13 people were killed in bus bombings in Punjab in April and March.



Ouch!

A bull catches a man between his horns during the second running of the bulls yesterday at the week-long San Fermin fiesta in Pamplona. The bull turned suddenly as it and five other bulls raced through Pamplona's streets to the bullring, catching one of the thousands of runners off-guard. The man was tossed over the bull's back but not injured. (Reuters)

Cambodian coup rebels execute main opponent

By KER MUNTHT

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — A leading opponent of Cambodian coup leader Hun Sen was killed with a bullet to the head while in custody, coup leaders said yesterday.

Ho Sok, a bitter opponent of Hun Sen, was arrested Monday and accused of plotting against the country's new leadership. His

death while in the hands of Hun Sen loyalists raised fears of a wave of summary executions to wipe out the opposition.

"He was arrested by the government troops and he has died," said Gen. Khieu Sopheak, an adviser to Hun Sen's interior minister.

The government denied responsibility for his death, claiming he had been killed by "the people." He was killed, however, after he was arrested by Hun Sen's soldiers when he reportedly left the safety of the Singapore Embassy for unexplained reasons Monday.

Hun Sen, one of two Cambodian premiers, staged a coup Saturday and appeared on television a day later to say he no longer would accept the leadership of his rival

co-premier, Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

On Monday, he began rounding up rivals aligned to the prince in an effort to consolidate power.

Ranariddh, who went to France one day before the coup, accused Hun Sen of ordering a "manhunt" of his followers in the Cambodian capital. Ranariddh laid the blame for Ho Sok's death in the hands of Hun Sen.

Khieu Sopheak justified the killing by accusing Ho Sok of being "a master of sabotage who had a lot of terrorism plots. He was shot down by the people who had anger with him." Earlier yesterday, Hun Sen's military police were going door-to-door at the city's largest hotel seeking opposition

members of parliament and arresting them, said an American democracy activist living in Cambodia.

"They have nowhere to go, no recourse, no voice," said American Ron Abney, who witnessed the arrests at the Cambodiana Hotel. "They're afraid for their lives." It is not known how many were rounded up.

The same hotel was being used as a shelter for hundreds of foreigners caught in the turmoil.

The sweep was the latest in Hun Sen's calculated measures to assume complete control of Cambodia. Although fighting in the capital had subsided, battles between Hun Sen soldiers and Ranariddh's forces raged in the country's northwest.

Clinton to get kangaroo boots from Australia

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — If US President Bill Clinton walks with new spring in his step and his remarks have a new bite, it may be due to a new Australian addition to his wardrobe — boots made of kangaroo and crocodile hide.

The boots, size 13C and specially designed and made after a throwaway line during the Clinton's Australian tour last year, came off the production line in the southern city of Adelaide yesterday.

They are expected to be handed to Clinton by Australian politician Warren Entsch in coming months, after being displayed in the national parliament.

Entsch claims to be "the only crocodile farmer in Parliament," a boast that Clinton overheard during his visit, and which set in motion the making of the unique pair of boots.

"When I met him in Parliament, he said he had a pair of alligator skin boots," Entsch said yesterday.

"I told him I had a pair of croc-skin boots. He asked how they were and I said they were ten times better." Entsch promised to have a pair made for Clinton and for the past eight months had made it a personal project.

The skins of two crocodiles were used for the boots' vamp and heels, one skin from Entsch's own crocodile farm and one from an Aboriginal-run farm, both in the Northern Territory.

The hides of an unknown number of kangaroos went into the uppers, which are etched with emblems of two native Australian flowers.

Asked if the boots were suitable for official functions, Entsch said, "Absolutely."

"They are flash, but they are not over the top."

Entsch said the presidential boots were unique, and with a price tag of about \$7,500 were likely to remain so.

While visiting Sydney last year, Clinton also acquired a Crocodile Dundee-style Akabra hat.

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Giving patriotism a bad name

In one of its less inspired moments, the Knesset Education Committee this week approved for a second and third reading a bill that would require that all publicly-funded schools fly the national flag. The unanimity of the vote amply demonstrates the political attraction of the proposal, if not its wisdom.

The current champion of this recurring proposal is Communications Minister Limor Livnat, considered a rising star by some segments of the Likud. Livnat, who almost joined Dan Meridor in resigning from the cabinet recently, has spent her first year in government building a deserved reputation as a conscientious and serious minister. By choosing a bill so prone to demagoguery as her pet project, Livnat is liable to severely tarnish her image.

On its face, requiring schools to fly the national flag may seem perfectly reasonable. Public schools are quasi-governmental institutions, so it is natural that they would fly the flag, like any government building. Patriotism, moreover, is an important value that needs to be cultivated in each new generation, particularly when it is considered out of fashion or politically incorrect.

The question is whether the attempt to cultivate patriotism is promoted or undermined by a legal requirement to fly the flag. For most schools in the country, there should be no objection — many already display the flag in every classroom. The real issue concerns schools that are more ambivalent about this national symbol, namely the Arab and haredi schools.

Haredi Knesset members, such as Shas MK and Deputy Health Minister Shlomo Benizri, have objected to the proposal, arguing that forcing the flag on schools will defeat the purpose of the law. Though Benizri is right that the law could be counterproductive, he goes too far when he labels it "secular coercion." Calling a requirement to display a flag "secular coercion," implies that the flag of the State of Israel is in conflict with haredi values.

Such a stance conflicts with the Jewish belief in showing gratitude when merited, and is particularly incongruous coming from a member of the Knesset. Except for the tiny fringe group of Natorei Karta, who actively oppose the state, there is no inherent conflict between haredi values and the state and its symbols.

The fact that haredim do not feel competent to predict that the State of Israel represents "the first flowering of the redemption," as the prayer for the state written by the Chief Rabbinate puts it, does not justify or explain antipathy toward

it. Since most haredim accept the possibility that Israel is a step forward in Jewish history, the State of Israel should be respected at least as much as any state in which haredim might reside.

In defending the military exemption for yeshiva students, haredim are quick to claim that by studying Torah they are defending the land as much as the IDF, because without Torah study, God will expel Israel from the land. It would be natural, therefore, for haredi schools to enthusiastically display the flag to accentuate their role in preserving the Jewish state.

The case of Israeli Arab schools is more problematic. The Israeli flag — not by accident, given the explicit Jewish character of the state — is centered around the symbol of the Jewish people, the Star of David. There has always been a delicate balance between the concept of Israel as a "Jewish state" — as set forth in the Declaration of Independence — and Israel's deep commitment to democracy.

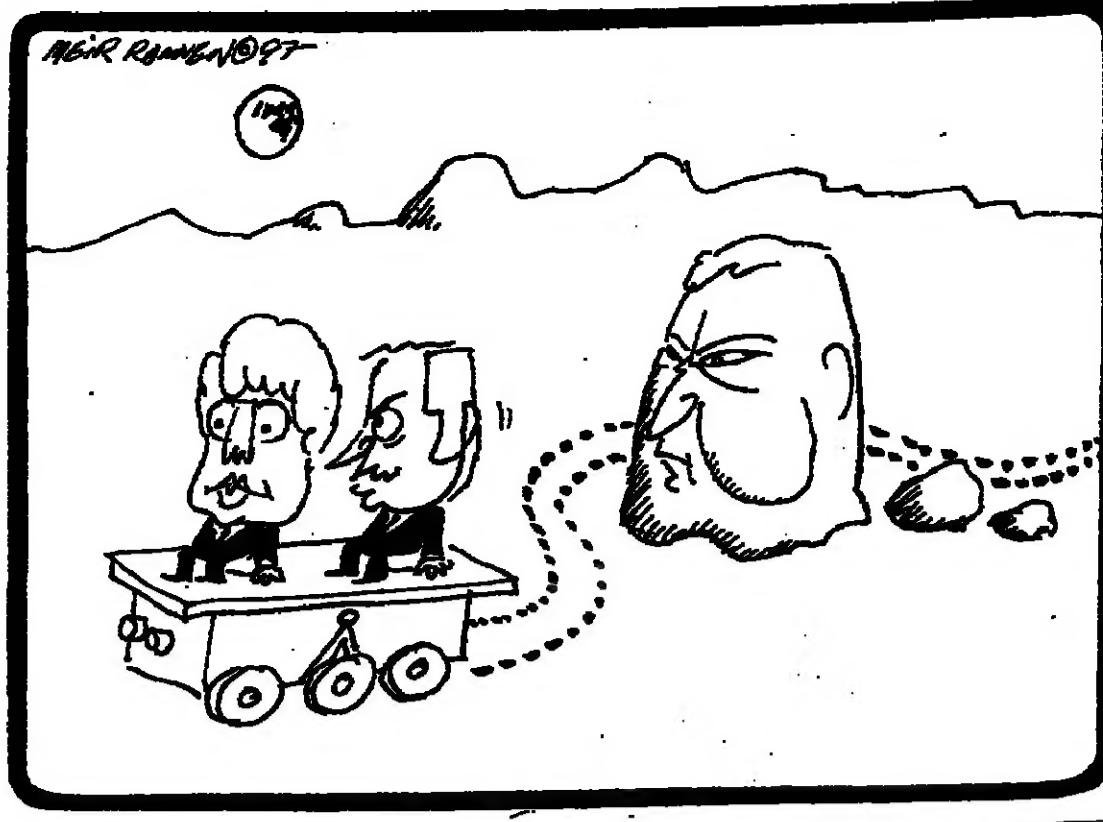
These values need not conflict, so long as the non-Jewish minority is given as much respect and breathing space as possible. It is fair to demand the loyalty of Israeli Arabs to the state, but that loyalty will not be increased by forced displays of patriotism.

In general, patriotism, like other important civic values, can actually be undermined through imposing it by force of law. For example, social scientists have found that as governments take over the roles played by local charities, the public propensity to give charity and volunteer is reduced. Whenever voluntary activity is subsumed by legal requirements or financial incentives, the spirit behind the activity is generally sapped of its strength. Legal standards generally become minimum standards, since people conclude that if it is required, then they want as little of it as is necessary.

Attempts to legislate patriotism are like putting metal detectors in schools to control violence; it is an attempt to treat the symptoms of a problem that can distract from treating the underlying disease.

The legislation will also backfire because it will treat the nation to the spectacle of politicians acting as if support for the provision is in itself a measure of patriotism, as if its opponents are necessarily unpatriotic. Like the labels of the "national" and "peace" camps, which each imply that the other is either unpatriotic or against peace, the debate on this bill will necessarily tend to just the sort of demagoguery that gives patriotism a bad name.

Ingenious technology



Sticks and stones

So what was the quarrel between David Levy and Benjamin Netanyahu really about?

Were they so certain Israel would weather the General Assembly's upcoming emergency session on Har Homa that they were wrangling over which one of the two should reap the diplomatic credit?

Or were they so sure Israel would be participating in November's economic summit in Qatar that the foreign minister wanted exclusive control of our foreign policy, to make it clear that only his efforts could stop Israel being boycotted at regional events?

Now that the government crisis has been settled, perhaps both Netanyahu and Levy might pause to consider that we are in for some nasty surprises.

If the fire in Hebron continues, or if it spreads to other cities, the US may well end the "time out" it has afforded us over the past few weeks by not raising any diplomatic initiatives of its own.

If President Mubarak's reconciliation initiative proves barren and Osama el-Baz's shutting loses its point, the US is liable to push its own plans for putting out the fire. Which is exactly what the Palestinians are after.

Their recent violence has been directed at pressuring the US to come up with "solutions that will hurt Israel" (to borrow Secretary Albright's words).

Looking back at this period of unseemly animosity between the

MOSHE ZAK

premier and his foreign minister, we can only hang our heads in shame that with important diplomatic decisions in the offing, our leaders have been busy scuffling over personal demarcation lines, squabbling over who's king of the castle.

In whose domain does the peace process actually fall? There can be only one answer: not in the foreign

A crisis ends, but the diplomatic damage continues

minister's exclusively.

The peace process is not a diplomatic problem, but a question of national survival requiring the joint effort and creativity of all our powers that be, in or out of government.

Unfortunately, the government crisis has left the impression that Israelis would rather stew in the juice of a domestic quarrel than make common cause in the struggle against hostile initiatives from outside.

Rolling the peace process uphill is too much for one man, even one who feels at home in both the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office. Still less can it be managed by a single ministry.

The government crisis has passed, but the diplomatic damage it has caused will be hard to repair.

For internal struggle signals weak seams in a government.

ON Air Force Day last Thursday, IAF commander Eitan Ben-Eliahu said he was proud of having developed the military answers to any Palestinian uprising.

But the Palestinians who have been rioting in Hebron aren't particularly impressed by our army's sophisticated weaponry.

What impressed them far more was the wrangling among our leadership. That, they estimated, would clog up the government's decision-making abilities, the result being IDF restraint rather than any real response to Palestinian provocations.

Weakness inside our government also has its effect on our greatest and closest friend, the US.

America has traditionally offered its good services in stopping the passing of UN resolutions that could harm Israel.

But over the last few weeks, with our government clearly showing that it sees internal dissent as more of a priority than the danger of outside diplomatic pressures, the US has slackened off its UN activity on our behalf.

Clearly doesn't see the need to be more Israeli than the Israelis. Put as plainly as possible, the Americans help their friends about as much as those friends are ready to help themselves. We shouldn't forget it.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

'Derech erez'

MOSHE DANN

When the driver in back of me leaned on his horn because I wasn't going fast enough, I wanted to thrash him. Instead, when we stopped for a light together, I got out of my car, went over to him and said, with a smile, "Derech erez."

His scowl faded into astonished confusion. Then, realizing he wasn't being challenged, he relaxed and nodded in agreement.

What is the meaning of those two magic words, (literally "way of the land")? Consideration for others. That's all. But it's a great deal.

When I arrived home, my young daughters were fighting over who would use the computer first. As the volume of voices and frustration rose, along with my feeling of helplessness, I asked them, quietly: "Now, what would be derech erez here?"

They stopped, looked at me quizzically, and thought about it. "Okay, she can go first," each offered, simultaneously. We had a good laugh; but an important point had been made.

I hugged them, and suggested a computer time limit. Then one offered to help me make dinner. "Thanks," I said. "That's derech erez."

It's such a simple idea, really, like many Jewish values. It's the basis of all successful human relationships — and yet it's sadly lacking in our daily lives. It's the most powerful life-enhancer we have, yet we seldom use it.

But if you do, watch the idea reverberate, even among those who seem callously to reject it. It seems to prove there really is something special about this country.

Could derech erez be taught nationwide, becoming as natural to our way of life as that well-known soft drink? I decided to experiment.

Two little words that could transform our society

I walked into a school and saw two children fighting. "Derech erez," I whispered, and touched them lightly.

I felt I held a magic wand as I watched them separate. Teachers are obvious models for derech erez. Cruel, insensitive, abusive, they only instill fear and anger. Kind, thoughtful and open, they bring out the best in their students.

That's the great thing about derech erez. It's a two-way street.

Why shouldn't the Education Ministry broaden its educational priorities and show concern for Jewish values by launching a nationwide project called Derech Eretz?

What a way it would be to teach children self-control, modesty, politeness, neatness, kindness, cooperation and respect for self and others, along with math and sciences — and without offending the sensibilities of secular parents who don't want "Judaism" shoved down their throats.

Derech Eretz could be the key to our survival as a society and a culture.

Exaggerated? Consider that lack of it destroys families, kills people on the roads daily — and is very bad for business.

I SUGGEST a nationwide campaign, with billboards, advertising, hats, buttons, T-shirts reading "I practice derech erez." There could be kits and progress charts involving the whole family.

Children could be encouraged to talk in class about how they practice derech erez. Imperceptibly, without even knowing it, they would be learning to take responsibility.

A sensitive, well-designed, comprehensive Derech Eretz program is a wholesome, whole-person approach to helping raise a child. It could — this is just one example — combat the influence of pornography and violence on TV, gradually changing society for the better.

Together secular and religious parents and educators would be preparing the next generation not only for its technological challenges, but for its human ones as well.

Learning respect for others is the basis of tolerance and democracy.

If we can distinguish ourselves not only as businessmen, engineers and scientists but as decent human beings, we will be fulfilling our most important human purpose.

Think of it — educational reform, practical and on a national scale. And all of it based on just two little words: derech erez.

The writer is a tour guide and former history professor.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNFAIR

Sir, — Susan Hattis Rolef, in her article of June 30, explains why she agrees with the prime minister that after the unfair attack on Barak (by the government), Barak's reaction (against Netanyahu) was not fair either. I appreciate such critical analysis about rules of behavior in the political arena — as could be expected of a sensible political scientist.

What I don't understand is why Rolef, in the same article, repeats Netanyahu's use of the racist argument that "over 60 percent of Israel's Jewish population voted for him in the elections." I remember

the elections for prime minister as a neck-and-neck race, in which Netanyahu got the narrowest of majorities. If only 1 percent more had voted for Peres, Netanyahu would not now be prime minister. The fact that 60 percent of the Jews voted for him would not have helped him, since the rules of the game in this country, as far as elections are concerned, are democratic and not racist. And the continuous categorizing of the vote in order to gain legitimacy can only contribute to a deterioration of our democracy.

BEATE ZILVERSMIDT
Holon.

CALL FOR UNITY

Sir, — Most of those who voted in the last elections for a change in government voted not so much for the Likud or Netanyahu as against a "peace process" which seemed to them, and rightly so, suicidal. Suffice it to recall that according to that process, 90 percent of the areas were supposed to be handed over to the Palestinian Authority in three stages, and only then open negotiations regarding the three acute problems of Israel: Palestinian state, Jerusalem and the refugees.

The majority was and is still in favor of a peace process, but different from that of Peres. This was the main election issue and it is still the

main problem of Israel on which its future hinges. All the other problems are of secondary importance. Hence our Knesset members should put aside their personal matters, their ambitions and interests and those of their parties and voters. They should serve as an example for all that they are aware of the overriding interest of the state's future. We have so many enemies whose goals are well known to us. Let us show the world that we are a pluralistic society, but united and confident regarding what is the essential.

RENE WEIL
Jerusalem.

NOISE POLLUTION

Sir, — After 20 years of suffering, I have finally plucked up the courage to protest against noise pollution.

One day recently, I woke up to the disposal trucks picking up the bins at 6 a.m., followed by a day at work with the noise of drilling and the computer printer. Finally after a hard day's work, I came home to the noise of a hedge cutter (I looked out of my window and saw the operator of the hedge cutter was wearing ear plugs). Finally during the early hours of the morning I was woken up first by the sound of motorists honking their horns — presumably calling their friends, as Israelis are gener-

ally too lazy to go up and knock on doors. Later I was woken by the sound of burglar alarms (which no one even takes notice of any more).

People look forward to going to celebrations and meeting family and friends that they have not seen for years, only to find that due to the noise of the band, it is impossible even to say *mazal tov*. The people in the band wear ear plugs as well.

Please someone do something to protect us from harmful noise.

GERTIE LIPMAN
Kiron.

MUTUAL RESPECT

Sir, — Your report on the fanatic attack on the worshippers at the Western Wall in the early hours of the morning of Shavuot made most painful reading — amongst others your report that the police advised the women to remove their tallitot if calm was to be restored. Yet the attack continued even though the ladies removed their tallitot.

Clearly these attackers, despite their zealotry, are ignorant of the opinions of our giants of Halacha — namely Maimonides, Rabbenu Tam, the Ra'avad and those who follow in their footsteps. It is the opinion shared by all of them that women may choose to wear a tallit if they so wish, their only difference lying in the view of Maimonides that they do not make a blessing in so doing. The Ra'avad justifies either view, and this is surely a good example of what the Tanna Rabbi Ishmael was pointing to when he declared: "do not say [to others] you must accept my view — for it is up to them and not to you."

When are we in Israel going to adopt this measure of tolerance and mutual respect?

ISAAC NEWMAN,
Chairman,
Rabbis for Human Rights

DEMOCRACY

Sir, — How fortunate for Mrs. Waxman to have inhaled a culture of democracy when living in the US ("Daily life — the real classroom," June 23). Yet, her lecture to the Israeli left conveniently skips the most basic tenet of American democracy: strict separation of state and religion. Does she support that aspect of American democracy too? And where was she when the Israeli right attacked verbally and physically the democratically elected government of Yitzhak Rabin? Could it be that Mrs. Waxman "smoked" but did not "inhale" democracy while in the US?

WALTER MARKIEWICZ
Haifa.

At midnight June 30, Bermuda became the crown jewel of the British Empire. Britannia once commanded tea from Ceylon, tobacco from Virginia and rubber from Malaya. It now sports shorts.

This has been a bad century for empire. The end of both (century and empire) was neatly marked by the return of Hong Kong to China.

Which produced this even more melancholy fact: Britain, which gave the world Australia and New Zealand, now has exactly one Pacific possession, Pitcairn Island, population 54.

And the only reason the Union Jack still flies over Pitcairn — its inhabitants descended mostly from Fletcher Christian and his fellow Bounty mutineers, a nice touch — is that there is no one to give it back to.

Why melancholy? As someone who started his Montreal school days singing "God Save the Queen," I experienced firsthand how benevolent life in the British Commonwealth (as the empire was known in its dying days) could be.

Yet even those whose colonial experience was harsher look with some wistfulness at British rule.

Certainly, the Hong Kongers do. Hence the widespread trepidation that greeted the handover to Chinese rule.

Hong Kong is a fitting place for the British Empire to go out of business. (Except for Gibraltar, its remaining holdings are a few scattered islands including — another nice touch — St. Helena.) The Hong Kong handover put on dazzling display what Britain, given the chance and the time, hath wrought: individual rights, a moderate degree of self-government, and astonishing prosperity, indeed, a standard of living higher than that of the mother country.

This from what Lord Palmerston

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

termed a "barren rock" when, 155 years ago, he stole it fair and square for the Crown.

So dazzling is Hong Kong that the major immediate problem facing China is restraining the hordes of those living in the glorious Peoples' Republic from storming the gates to get into the new "Special Administrative Region."

The handover of Hong Kong has highlighted and legitimized

Hong Kong was a fitting place for the British Empire to go out of business

newly sympathetic view of colonialism, and particularly British colonialism — a view sustained by Lawrence James in his prodigious *The Rise and Fall of the British Empire*, in which he concludes that "Britain's empire was a moral force and one for the good."

On the whole, yes. Even Ho Chi Minh offered a backhanded compliment to the benignity and tolerance of British rule when he noted, in 1922, that Gandhi "would have long since entered heaven had he been born in one of the French colonies."

BUT the British Empire was not just benign relative to its contemporaries. It ranks among the most beneficent in history.

Consider that the most blessed places on the planet — as judged accurately by the countries that refugees and immigrants most clamor to get into — are Canada, Australia and the US, lands originally settled by Britons and built in

the political and cultural image of the mother country.

This is not to deny that this empire was built with a sense of insufferable national (and racial) superiority, and with occasional cruelty and much brute force.

But it is hard to think of an empire that wasn't. It is equally hard to think of one that left behind so much.

And one legacy above all: the idea of liberty, from which flowed the blessings of limited government, individual rights, protection against arbitrary power, and, as an added bonus, the prosperity that attends freedom.

Of course, for most of its life, the British Empire had a fairly narrow view of who qualified for liberty.

Even John Stuart Mill, writing in his classic *On Liberty* in 1859, held that "liberty, as a principle, has no application" to "barbarians," i.e. races in their "monage." The story of the last century and a half in Britain (and much of the West) is the story of the methodical expansion of the circle of freedom, outward from white males to include other races and women.

That expansion — the culmination and vindication of the idea of liberty — finds expression today in the political life of the West. But, as of July 1, it found expression also in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong is now given up and consigned to an uncertain fate. Which is why so much of the world, even the congenitally anti-colonial intellectual classes of the West, noted with ambivalence and apprehension the handover of Hong Kong from Britain to the masters of Tiananmen.

Which, in turn, is why, as we say farewell Hong Kong and all that, we might raise a last glass to the late great Empire.

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POSTSCRIPT

NECKTIES A nuisance? Bow ties a bother? No problem. Just head to the resort island of South Padre Island in Texas, where ties have been made taboo.

Declaring the tie detrimental to the welfare of the island and its visitors, the town's Board of Aldermen has approved a resolution making it illegal to wear ties. The very appearance of a tie

causes a discordant note for our visitors, sometimes causing serious regression back to their humdrum and ordinary business lives," the proclamation states.

It further decrees that police officers will issue a written warning to first offenders. Second-time offenders will be fined the cost of a silk tie and the offending neckwear will be confiscated and destroyed.

Mayor Ed Cyganiewicz, whose own tie was cut off after the proclamation was ratified, devised the idea after attending a tourism conference at which he invited participants to visit the island, but warned them not to pack a tie.

The police department has received dozens of calls from visitors worried that the police are going to snip off their neckwear.

הכנסת השלוש

At your disposal

By JAMES BARRON

NEW YORK (New York Times) — It's one of those inexcusable, only-in-New-York things. A city that prides itself on being a world capital of round-the-clock consumer convenience, that features home delivery of everything from dry cleaning to dry martinis, has outlawed an appliance that defines convenience: the garbage disposal.

But the whirling, whooshing, waste-eating devices moved one step closer to attaining legal status last week with the release of a report from the city's Department of Environmental Protection, which declared a 21-month experiment with disposals a success.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani supports the idea of lifting the ban, a spokesman said, as long as the city keeps tabs on the effects on waste-water treatment. City Council Speaker Peter Vallone sounded unlikely to rush out and buy a garbage disposal, although he recalled being impressed by the first one he ever saw — in a home in Florida, in the 1960s.

"This is one of those things that could turn out to be a very good thing, but in this case, I'm from Missouri: Show me," Vallone, a Democrat, said, noting that the report arrived just days after a sewage leak forced the closing of beaches along Long Island Sound.

"If I had my way, we'd redo the entire system, but there you're talking trillions, so unless the federal government gets involved in a very serious way with money, we're stuck with what we've got."

What New York has is a sometimes cantankerous infrastructure — and the distinction of being the only major US city to outlaw a quintessential kitchen appliance. What New York could be, the report said, is a city with garbage disposals in as many as a third of its households by 2035.

The environmental agency reached its conclusions after installing 243 disposals in three neighborhoods — in Queens, Brooklyn and Manhattan. The report found high levels of ammonia and one form of phosphorus, at the Brooklyn test site, in the Bay Ridge Towers apartment complex at 350 65th Street. But the report said the increase may have resulted from a large sinkhole on 65th Street.

The report warned that introducing garbage disposals might increase the costs of cleaning city sewers and might increase the amount of unwanted material — "suspended solids and oils

and grease" — in the sewer system. Permitting garbage disposals would also increase water consumption, the report said. Plumbers might be, uh, predisposed to expect a bonanza, too.

Councilman Archie Spigner, a Queens Democrat who said in 1995 that he wrote and introduced a disposal bill at the urging of the plumbing industry, said that he was pleased with the report's conclusions and would now introduce another bill to lift the ban.

"It's a convenience that New York City residents ought not be deprived of," Spigner said. He has had one in his home for several years because he lives in St. Albans, one of a handful of areas with separate sewer systems for storm runoff and household waste.

"It's a very, very agreeable application to have. It has reduced the amount of garbage we put out, and we don't have any mice or roaches. Whether we would have had them had this waste food been sitting around in the garbage can, I don't know, but I'm delighted to tell you we don't have any."

But enough of personal confessions. Mark Izenman of the National Resources Defense Council called garbage disposals "a costly solution to a nonexistent problem," and some residents in the areas where disposals were tested indicated that they would not mind if the whole project went down the drain.

"I think it's a City Council sham, the whole project," said Howard Marder, who lives in one of three buildings on East 85th Street where disposals were installed, but who declined to have one put in his rent-controlled apartment.

A former managing editor of *Solid Waste Management*, a trade magazine, Marder knows more about the subject than the average urban apartment dweller.

"My feeling was that New York City had done very well without these garbage disposal units for several hundred years," he said, "and I really didn't see where the city needed them."

And then there was Bruce Jacobs, who lives down the block. "I can remember sitting around with my girlfriend thinking of what we could throw down there," Jacobs said. "I don't personally cook a lot so I don't use it as much as the next person would. However, I've used it for other things. I put dead mice down there. We occasionally find mice in our apartments here. It's either throw them down there or take them to the garbage chute, and this is definitely more convenient."

Will New NATO cost US lives?

By JONATHAN PETERSON

PALMA DE MAJORCA, SPAIN (Los Angeles Times) — On the face of it, NATO's imminent invitation to three of its former enemies to join the alliance stands out as US President Clinton's premier achievement in foreign policy, a plan he sponsored, promoted and sold to wary allies.

But as the world's major military alliance prepares to open its doors to Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, Clinton's initiative is becoming a topic of fierce debate among experts, some of whom fear it is an epic mistake which ultimately will lead to American blood being spilled in far-off lands for obscure reasons.

On Saturday, as Clinton toured a medieval fortress on the Mediterranean island of Majorca, the White House was anticipating a triumphant week which will feature the much-ballyhooed NATO summit in Madrid, followed by presidential visits to Poland and Romania.

In the US, meanwhile, the debate over Clinton's signature initiative in foreign policy is growing, a clash of views that is certain to become noisier and more heated in the coming weeks.

"They've made a policy decision, but they do not have a strategy," said Jack Mendelsohn, deputy director of the Arms Control Association, a Washington-based think tank. "They do not know where this is going to lead."

"People will ask: 'Should we be defending the Romanian-Ukraine border? Is that something the United States needs to get involved in?'" Michael W. Doyle, director of Princeton University's Center of International Studies, offered a question of his own: "What is the purpose of this new NATO?"

Supporters inside and outside the White House offer various answers. They view it as a bold step for long-term stability in Europe and a way to nurture fledgling democracies that once revolved around the Soviet Union by wedding them to



US President Bill Clinton flanked by Spanish President Jose Maria Aznar to the left and Nato General Secretary Javier Solana and US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to the right before the start of Nato's historic summit in Spain. (Reuters)

Western military, political and economic institutions.

Moreover, proponents applaud Clinton's strategy as a way to preserve American influence in a part of the world often associated with war and instability.

"It's a way of expanding American influence into Eastern and Central Europe," said Kim R. Holmes, chief foreign policy spokesman at the conservative Heritage Foundation think tank in Washington and a general supporter of Clinton's approach.

More than any other foreign policy move by Clinton, analysts generally agree, NATO expansion represents a forward-looking plan with potentially enormous ripple effects.

"We're making history," White House press secretary Mike

McCurry declared last week before the president left for Spain.

But some warn that Americans should not be lulled by the recent NATO-Russia charter signed in Paris in which Russian President Boris Yeltsin seemed comfortable with Western promises that the alliance will work more closely with his nation. Rather, they warn, an expanded NATO could be a dangerous provocation to hard-liners in Moscow, who resent the eastward expansion of a military alliance still widely perceived as an anti-Russia coalition.

Said one senior Russian official: "What is happening now is a big mistake; a mistake that will be resolved by the dissolution of the alliance."

"Yes, we signed the documents

(that bond the Cold War adversaries), but we still don't understand enlargement and the eagerness to bring a military organization closer to Russia. All of us in Russia ask: Why are they doing this?"

Under NATO rules, nations must respond to an attack on any members as an attack against the whole alliance, a provision that raises scenarios of American soldiers becoming entangled in European ethnic feuds.

"Is the American public willing to risk the lives of US troops should the security or stability of Eastern Europe be threatened?" asked more than 20 Republican and Democratic members of the Senate in a June letter to Clinton. "The question is complicated by the fact that the US commitment

to NATO includes the use of its nuclear forces."

Doubters also maintain that US and NATO officials have failed to make clear precisely what they are looking for in new members — why, for example, Hungary makes the grade but Slovenia does not. Then there is the matter of cost, with upbeat American officials predicting that taxpayers will shoulder no more than \$250 million a year and pessimists arguing that the price tag could be much higher.

These days the enlargement policy was praised by world leaders. But soon enough, a major domestic battle is expected to flare up, culminating in a raucous Senate debate early next year. "This is not over yet," said Holmes of the Heritage Foundation.

AMERICAN SCENE

Greetings from ... Louisville?

Mid-sized US cities are creating alliances to draw the attention — and cash — of tourists

By EDWIN McDOWELL

CINCINNATI (New York Times) — With its many cultural institutions, fine dining, elegant 19th-century architecture and daily nonstop flights to five European cities, Cincinnati would seem to have much of what it takes to become a prime destination for international tourists — a record 46.3 million of whom visited the US last year.

But it isn't, of course. What traveler would mention this Ohio River town in the same breath with Yellowstone or the Everglades? Not that Cincinnati is totally lacking in foreign tourists — it gets at least 200,000 a year. But that is dwarfed, for example, by the roughly 500,000 foreigners who trek each year to Pigeon Forge, Tenn., a hamlet of just 3,600 or so residents that has cashed in handsomely from its six outlet malls; Dollywood, the theme park; Dollywood, and its proximity to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The Queen City, as Cincinnati is known, is trying mightily to put itself on the tourist map. But it is well aware that it cannot do it alone — and that it will never be one of the first destinations of a foreign traveler.

So in May, it joined forces with two cities with the same goal — Louisville, Kentucky, 100 miles to the southwest, and Indianapolis, Indiana 100 miles to the northwest. Based on the theory that the whole can be greater than the sum of its parts, this triangle of cities is marketing itself as a package to foreign tourists, initially from Britain, France and Germany, but perhaps later from Japan and other affluent Asian locations.

The campaign aims to convince foreign tourists that these cities would make ideal stops on a second or third trip after a traveler has seen the Golden Gate Bridge and the lights of Broadway.

Foreign tourist dollars are increasingly coveted across the nation, even by places that would seem unlikely tourist destinations. With many mid-sized cities establishing themselves as centers for business services and entertainment for the surrounding region, the international tourist trade offers an ideal way to add a dollop of frosting, especially since these are outside dollars, not just local dollars recycled through local businesses.

Consider that the 46.3 million international travelers who visited the US last year, according to the Commerce Department's Tourism Industries Office, spent \$84 billion and supported about a million

full-time jobs. Domestic travel expenditures by US residents grew a respectable 77 percent in the decade from 1986 to 1996 to \$383 billion, according to the Travel Industry of America. But in that same period, foreign tourists' total travel expenditures in the US more than tripled.

Wherever those tourist billions land, they create jobs, help pay for schools and libraries, and help keep taxes on local residents down. Cincinnati, with 3.5 million to 4 million total tourists annually, calculates that visitors spent \$2.1 billion last year, accounting for the equivalent of 75,000 full-time jobs.

But like most cities with pride in what they have to offer, Cincinnati wants even more tourists — and the more free-spending visitors from abroad, the better. Despite the recent strength of the dollar, the US remains a veritable bargain for tourists from Europe and Asia.

"We're saying to foreign visitors, 'You've already seen New York, Disneyland and San Francisco,'" said Dan M. Lincoln, vice-president for tourism at the Greater Cincinnati Convention and Visitors Bureau. "Now spend at least two or three days in Cincinnati; another few days in Louisville, a Southern city, seeing horse farms and other attractions;

and a few days in Indianapolis, a Midwestern city, the motor car racing capital of the US."

Joining forces to lure tourists is nothing new. There are almost a dozen regional trade and tourism alliances in the US, from Travel South, involving 11 Southern states, to Mississippi River Country USA, made up of 10 states from Minnesota to Louisiana.

But the Cincinnati-Louisville-Indianapolis experiment is the first long-term three-city, three-state partnership aimed solely at foreign tourists.

Even cities whose popularity is not in doubt are forming alliances.

On July 1, Phoenix, San Diego, and Las Vegas kicked off a three-year marketing plan aimed at enticing foreign visitors to sample desert, beach and casinos in one visit. The alliance partners will focus on Europe the first year, on Japan and other Asian nations the second year, then perhaps Latin America.

"There are not many stand-alone tourist destinations," said Robert M. Lander, vice-president for marketing at the Phoenix and Valley of the Sun Convention and Visitors Bureau. "Not too many tourists will travel long distances to visit one destination or one or two sites. That's why you're going to see more and more of these

strategic alliances."

It is not just a matter of luring visitors, of course. Travel industry officials say foreigners could quickly sour on visits to cities or sites that are ill prepared to receive them, whether because they lack currency exchanges or guidebooks in their languages. But with English gradually becoming the language of international tourism as well as of commerce, others say, the problem is becoming ever more manageable.

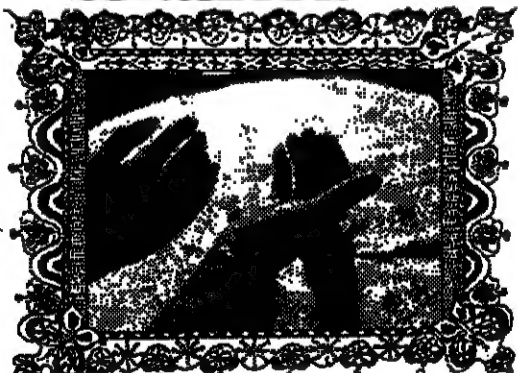
Industry officials also say it is not cost effective for widely separated cities to forge partnerships aimed at domestic travelers.

Weekend travel accounts for 52% of all domestic travel, according to the Travel Data Center of the Commerce Department, up 10 percentage points from 1986, so Americans rarely have time to visit more than a single city on one trip.

Still, all the alliance cities welcome domestic tour groups, especially escorted bus tours, whose one- to three-week itineraries make multicity visits possible. While such tourists are not as ready to part with money as foreign visitors are, the American Bus Association estimates that passengers on a fully loaded bus (about 46 passengers) spend \$5,000 to \$7,000 during the typical overnight stay.

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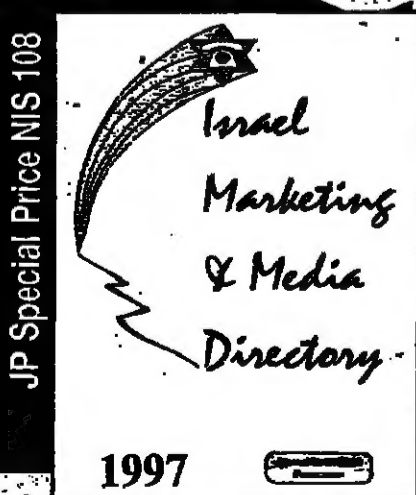
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Zabel wins 3rd stage; Rominger out

PLUMELEC (AP) — Swiss veteran Tony Rominger went out of his last Tour de France after breaking his collarbone in a group fall in yesterday's third stage.

Erik Zabel of Germany won the third stage and Mario Cipollini of Italy held onto the lead and the yellow jersey by finishing in 25th for the day.

But a group fall with about nine kilometers (5.6 miles) left was the most dramatic thing that happened in the stage from Vire to Plumelec, 224km (139.2m) in all.

Rominger was the most seriously injured with a broken collarbone according to the medical statement and a severe cut on his right leg. He had to be taken to the hospital of Vannes.

For minutes he sat on the ground getting medical treatment before finally being put on a stretcher.

Rominger, 36, was one of the top riders in the world in the early 1990s but faded over the last two years.

He had the world record for one-hour at one time and was second in the 1993 Tour de France behind Miguel Indurain. He also won the Tour of Spain three times and took the Tour of Italy once.

Although aging, Rominger was brought in to replace American Lance Armstrong on the French Cofidis team when Armstrong was diagnosed with testicular cancer last September.

Rominger was fourth in the overall standings and was making a surprising showing in the Tour. He was 10th last year.

Yesterday's stage was marked by a long breakaway by four riders. France's Francois Simon left the other three riders late in the stage, building up a one-minute gap with 17km (10.5m) left. But he also was caught with five kms (3.2m) to go.

On the final long straightaway, up a slight hill, Zabel moved ahead in the last meters ahead of Franck Vandembroucke of Belgium.

Third was last year's champion, Bjarne Riis of Denmark.

Atletico sign Juninho

LONDON (Reuters) — Atletico Madrid have signed Brazilian midfielder Juninho for £12 million from English first division club Middlesbrough, BBC Radio Five reported yesterday.

"I am very disappointed that we have not been able to keep Juninho because he had a very special relationship with us," said Keith Lamb, Middlesbrough's chief executive.

Despite late intervention from Tottenham Hotspur, who bid £11m, Juninho signed with the Spanish side.

FIFA to clarify Ronaldo transfer

FIFA is to issue a statement today clarifying its position on Brazilian striker Ronaldo's world record move from Barcelona to Internazionale.

Growing confusion over who owns the world footballer of the year, combined with a recent statement by the European Commission, warning FIFA that its transfer regulations may contravene European Union law, have forced FIFA to make its position clear.

FIFA spokesman Andreas Herren said on Tuesday that a press release would also contain the long awaited date of a Players Status Committee meeting and,

"what will happen to the players in the meantime." The dispute, which has now widened to include the attempted move from Athletic Bilbao to Bayern Munich of French international defender Bixente Lizarazu, centres around "buyout" clauses found in Spanish league contracts.

Ronaldo is reported to have bought out his contract with Barcelona for \$27.5m but the Spanish Football Federation has refused to issue a transfer certificate for the 20-year-old Brazilian on the grounds that such "buyouts" or withdrawal clauses are valid for domestic transfers only.

FIFA rules also state that a player cannot buy out his contract for the purposes of obtaining an international transfer.

The European Commission, however, maintains that such rules infringe workers' rights to free movement — a right granted in the landmark Bosman ruling.

Amid the confusion, Lizarazu is set to begin training with his new club Bayern Munich today.

"It wasn't that we gave him permission to train with Bayern it was more of a fact that there is nothing preventing him from training with Munich," said Herren.

Van Gundy extends pact with Knicks

NEW YORK (Reuters) — The New York Knicks extended the contract of head coach Jeff Van Gundy Monday. The length and financial terms of the extension were not disclosed.

Van Gundy compiled a 57-25 record in his first full season as coach of the Knicks this season, leading them to the Eastern Conference semifinals. New York blew a 3-1 series lead and lost to the Miami Heat in seven games after six players were suspended a game apiece after a brawl in Game 5.

"Jeff has established himself as one of the finest young coaching talents in the game today," said Knicks general manager Ernie Grunfeld. "His work ethic and dedication to coaching has earned him the respect of our players as well as the entire Knicks organization."

The 35-year-old Van Gundy took the team over on March 8, 1996, relieving Don Nelson. He went 13-10 over the rest of the season and the Knicks lost to the Chicago Bulls in five games in the Eastern Conference semifinals. Van Gundy, who is 70-35 (.667) in his one-plus seasons, is the youngest coach in the NBA.

Van Gundy served as an assistant coach for the Knicks for six

seasons, under Stu Jackson, John MacLeod, Pat Riley and Nelson. His brother Stan is an assistant under Riley with the Miami Heat.

"I have always been most appreciative to the Knicks, who have given me the opportunity to grow and mature as a coach," said Van Gundy.

"I'm just looking forward now to getting ready for next season. Winning is what we've been all about over the last decade, and I know that our returning veterans and our younger players are every bit as committed to that as I am."

The Knicks re-signed superstar center Patrick Ewing last Wednesday to a four-year contract worth a reported \$65 million.

The Knicks have not won an NBA title since 1973, a sports championship drought exceeded in New York only by the NFL Jets, who won Super Bowl III in 1969.

Nuggets renounce six The Denver Nuggets, trying to clear money under the salary cap to sign their three first-round picks, renounced the rights to six players including Lithuanian guard Sarunas Marculionis.

The Nuggets also renounced the rights to Vincent Askew, Jerome Allen, Jimmy King, Keith Jennings and Kemy Smith. The move cleared up at least \$4.8 mil-

lion in cap room. Marculionis earned \$2.5m and Askew made \$2m last season.

Denver has to sign center Tony Battie, forward Danny Fortson and guard Bobby Jackson. The Nuggets selected Battie with the third overall pick, while Fortson, the 10th pick, was part of a four-player trade with Milwaukee that sent center Ervin Johnson to the Bucks. Jackson, selected by Seattle at 23, was acquired in a deal that sent second-round pick James Cotton to the SuperSonics.

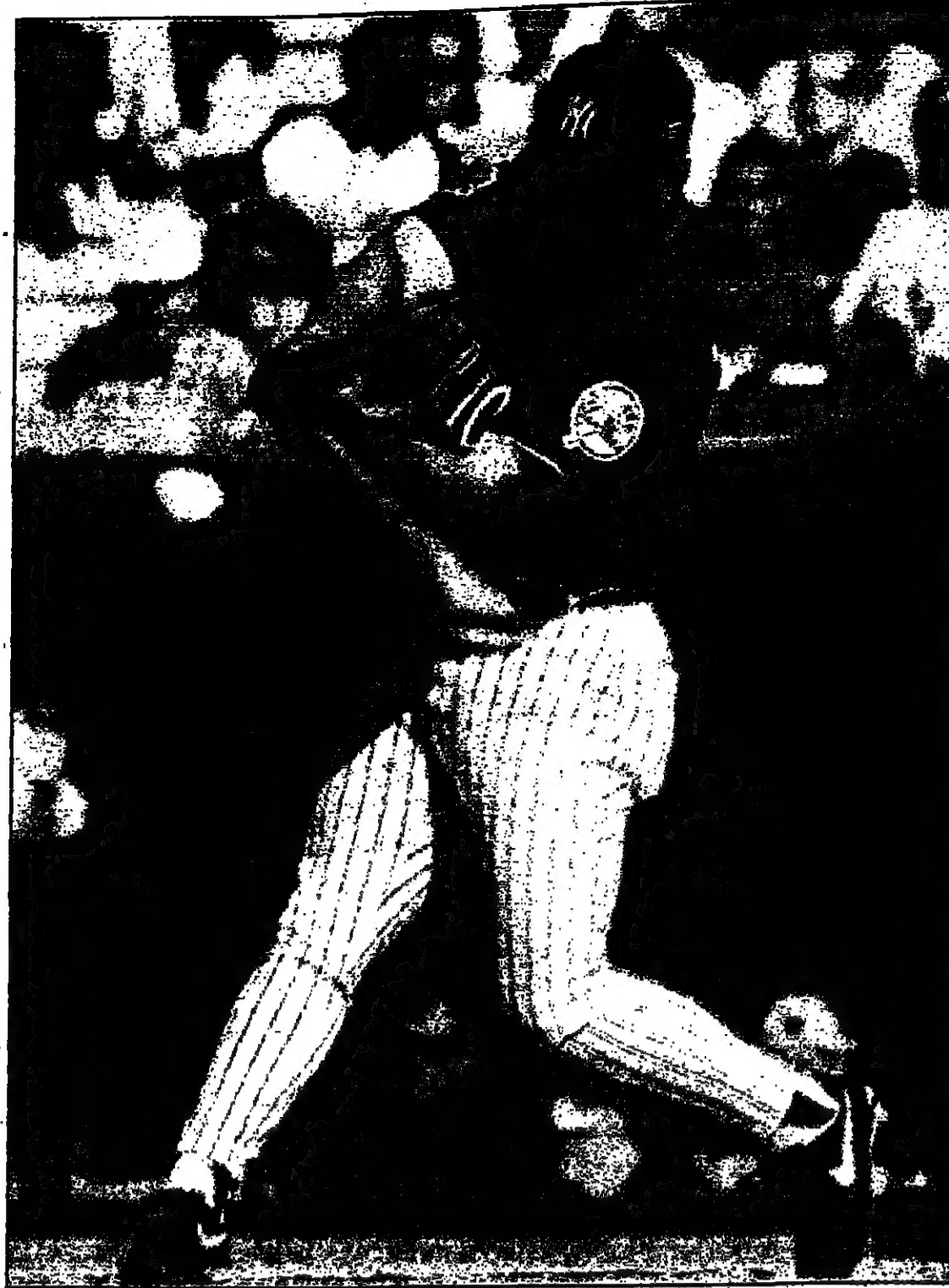
Marculionis, a 33-year-old veteran of eight seasons in the NBA and a three-time Olympian, appeared in just 17 games due to knee injuries last season, averaging just 6.8 points.

He shot 37.6 percent from the field and 36.7 percent from three-point range.

Allen, acquired from Indiana late in the season, averaged 3.0 points and 1.3 rebounds in 76 games.

Askew, who was sent from Indiana to the New Jersey Nets to Denver, averaged 5.6 points and 2.3 rebounds in 43 games.

Smith, who started the season with the Detroit Pistons before ending up with the Nuggets, averaged 6.3 points and 2.4 assists in 48 games.



GOING, GOING, GONE — Yankees' Tino Martinez.

Martinez wins HR Derby

CLEVELAND (Reuters) — The New York Yankees' steady-hitting first baseman Tino Martinez was the surprise winner of the Home Run Derby Monday on All-Star Weekend day at Jacobs Field.

Martinez, among the major-league leaders with 28 homers this season, belted a total of 16 homers in 41 swings and defeated National League home-run leader Larry Walker of the Colorado Rockies 3-1 in the final round.

"I don't even hit home runs that good in batting practice," said Martinez.

"I just wanted to represent the Yankees and do something respectable, like hit two or three homers and advance to the second round," Martinez said. "I really didn't expect to win."

Martinez hit five homers in the opening round. Also advancing with Martinez and Walker were Oakland Athletics first baseman Mark McGwire, the major-league leader with 31 home runs this season, and Houston Astros first baseman Jeff Bagwell.

Martinez ripped eight into the seats, including four in a row, in the second round to join Walker in the

final. Walker blasted nine in the first round and matched Martinez with four straight homers en route to another nine in the second round.

Each batter was allowed only five non-homer swings in the final round, as opposed to 10 in the first two rounds, and Martinez connected on his first two swings. After two "outs," he belted another Walker could manage only one, on his second swing.

While Martinez came away the winner, it was Walker who supplied the most excitement. Eleven of his 19 homers traveled over 400 feet

and his 479-foot blast reached the second deck in right-center field, was the longest shot of the day.

Boston Red Sox shortstop Nomar Garciaparra won the rookie home-hitting contest with three.

Larry Doby, who 50 years ago broke the American League color barrier with Cleveland is, the honorary AL captain.

Frank Robinson, who spent part of his career with the Cincinnati Reds, has the distinction for the NL, which has won the last three All-Star Games and leads the all-time series, 40-26-1.

Tyson dropped from WBA ratings; Holyfield in SA

CARACAS (AP) — Mike Tyson was dropped Monday from the World Boxing Association rankings after the uproar caused when he bit the ears of defending champion Evander Holyfield in their June 28 bout in Las Vegas.

The ratings committee of the Caracas-based WBA said it was dropping Tyson because according to its regulations no boxer who has been suspended by a local commission can be rated by the WBA.

Tyson has also been suspended by the Nevada State Athletic Commission.

"We are acting in solidarity with the com-

mission of Las Vegas," said Alberto Sarmiento, one of the seven members of the committee.

The former champion's biting "was an illegal act, like poking a finger in the eye, and deserves to be sanctioned," he said.

He said Tyson could be reinstated if the Nevada commission ends his suspension.

South African boxer Franz Botha was promoted to the No. 1 challenger's spot.

Meanwhile in Johannesburg, Holyfield met

Mandela, a former amateur boxer, praised Holyfield's style and playfully squared up to him with fists raised when they met at the president's Johannesburg home.

Holyfield was accompanied by his wife Janice and Mandela by his companion Graca Machel of Mozambique.

"He is a three times world champion and therefore his style is the envy of many boxers," Mandela said.

Holyfield's four-city visit in South Africa included several coaching sessions with local boxers.

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US Maccabiah hoopsters sign with local clubs

By HEATHER CHAIT

In six days, the 15th Maccabiah will open, but for some, there will be more than just memories of the fun when the games end on July 24. At least three of the US Maccabiah basketball team have more long-term plans, having signed to play for local teams. Jesse Rosenfeld and Brian Yankelevitz join Maccabi Tel Aviv's ranks and Scott Zack will put his energies into Hapoel Eilat's hoopsters.

Among the countries who have not been in regular attendance, but are returning for this Maccabiah are Zimbabwe, the Virgin Islands, Singapore and India.

Rob Levy from New Zealand will have a daunting task as the solo Kiwi athlete in the games. Levy will be in judo action in the 86 kilogram weight group.

Hosting the 5,500 sportspeople has created a demand for beds from Metulla down to Jerusalem.

Metulla's Canada Center is the venue for the ice hockey competition, sure to be of a high standard with top league players from Canada and the US competing. Mike Hartman, the Americans' coach, played for the New York Rangers in 1994, the year they won the Stanley Cup.

Ukraine and Israel are the two other teams in the quarter. Netanyahu will be flooded with 2,200 sportspeople and true to Olympic tradition, will offer a lively entertainment program to keep the visitors happy.

Herzliya, Tel Aviv, Bat Yam and Kfar Maccabiah will house 1,200 athletes, Caesarea, the golf venue, will be home to 100 golfers while the seaside resort of Tiberias will entice 30 rowers.

Mixing music and sport is Richard Fleisher, a member of the US table tennis team. When he downs his table tennis paddle, Fleisher picks up his harp as principal harpist for the Naples Philharmonic in Florida, a unique combination which even *Sports Illustrated* has written about.

Donovan Bailey wooed by CFL

VANCOUVER (AP) — The B.C. Lions have placed sprint star Donovan Bailey on the Canadian Football League club's negotiation list.

CFL clubs are allowed to protect the rights to 35 players whom they can place on their negotiations lists, which precludes any other club in the league from talking to the sprinter or his representatives.

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All times are p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Shahak makes unprecedented visit to Jordan

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Chief of General Staff Lt-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak visited Jordan yesterday, the first official visit to any Arab country by the chief of general staff.

Hosted by his Jordanian counterpart, Field Marshal Abdul-Hafez Murei Ka'abneh, Shahak's two-day visit is aimed at increasing cooperation and close relations between the countries' armies, according to Israel Embassy spokesman Shalom Turgeman.

Soon after his arrival in Amman, Shahak and Ka'abneh held a working meeting at the Jordanian Armed Forces headquarters. Then Shahak and his entourage were flown to an army base, where they observed a military exercise.

The visit to the base at Azraq, 120 kilometers southeast of Amman, was aimed at getting Shahak acquainted with Jordanian defense capabilities, a Jordanian army spokesman told AP.

The IDF said the Jordanians are also taking the Israeli generals on a visit to an

air base and the military vehicle works. Shahak is being accompanied by OC Planning Branch Maj-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, Liaison Brig-Gen. David Tzur and officers from the air force, navy, ground corps and intelligence branch.

A number of senior IDF officers have visited the Hashemite kingdom and regional commanders are in constant contact with their Jordanian counterparts. But the public visit of Israel's top military officer demonstrates that the warm relationship between the two armies is growing, officials said.

The 1994 peace treaty includes defense cooperation, but this has largely been limited to preventing infiltrations from Jordan to Israel and to fighting drug smuggling.

But there are also the beginnings of Israeli support for the Jordanian army's logistics, and Israel is providing some spare parts. Israel has also provided Jordan with mine-clearing equipment.

Last week there was a joint military exercise at Naharayim to evacuate "casualties." The Jordanian Armed Forces

deputy chief of staff Lt-Gen. Mohammed Salameh Hiwan and other senior officers were here during the exercise to discuss security and military relations.

Israel played a key role in getting US weapons and debt reduction for Jordan. Still, Jordan has so far shot out Israel from its plans to upgrade its army; for example, Jordan has so far rebuffed offers from Israel to maintain the surplus F-16s it has received from the US, reportedly because of sensitivity to the reactions of Palestinians in Jordan.



Protester Sheryl Sayag, carrying 'sapling' Gabi, wants to save the veteran trees lining her street in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Talpiot. (Brian Heister)

Talpiot residents root for trees

By JONATHAN TEPPERMAN

Talpiot residents gathered last night to protest the city's plan to redevelop streets in the area.

At the intersection of Ein Gedi and Efrata streets, over 60 protesters assembled with placards reading "I'm for trees" and "Our trees should live." Milling around the residential neighborhood, they engaged in a brief chant of "save our trees."

According to Noa Sivan, a local resident who organized the demonstration, many trees in the area are over 70 years old, and

will be destroyed if the municipality pursues its plan to resurface Efrata street and renew the sewage and electrical systems there.

The proposed redevelopment will remove the topsoil critical to the survival of the Jerusalem pines lining the street. Sivan admitted that the road needs repairs, but argued that "the city should just do make-up. This is major surgery, and is not necessary."

According to Sivan, municipal officials have met with local residents to address their complaints, but residents were only consulted

after the plans had been laid. "They wanted us involved," she said, "but wouldn't let us change anything."

Officials from the municipality were unavailable for comment, but have reportedly offered to replace the trees that will be killed. This failed to mollify the protesters. "We don't want their new small trees," said Sivan. "We want our own."

Other Talpiot residents, including Yael Galili, said Jerusalem pines such as those in the neighborhood can live over 200 years, and should be allowed to do so.

IDF intelligence chief: Showcase attacks unlikely

By LIAT COLLINS

The head of military intelligence, Major General Moshe Ya'alon, told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday that although great tension can be sensed in Palestinian areas, Hamas is not interested in showcase attacks at the moment, and the Palestinian Authority is acting to thwart specific incidents.

The Islamic Jihad, however, is interested in more terror, so individuals and small cells not affiliated with the main organizations are trying to carry out attacks whenever possible, such as the recent drive-by shooting in Har Adar.

According to an official briefing, Ya'alon told the committee that the threat of a flare-up in the territories still exists. He said the PA is interested in a controlled level of violence because it believes the resulting news coverage is to its benefit. The street demonstrations also deflect international and internal attention from its widespread corruption and human rights violations.

He said the Palestinians are suffering "a severe crisis of confidence" in their relationship with Israel, and the PA is disappointed with the US, which it believes is not placing enough pressure on Jerusalem. Yet Ya'alon said there is no freeze in relations because there are constant low-level contacts.

Asked why the PA is not trying to prevent protests in the areas under its control, Ya'alon said it claims it is not responsible for solving Israel's problems, and that Israel is responsible for the current crisis.

He said Hamas is exploiting the current situation to strengthen itself, but is not participating in

the violent demonstrations. It has taken a line against showcase attacks because the backlash, such as closures, affects its popularity.

Egypt has moved from taking a militant stand to being a fair mediator, Ya'alon said.

He said there had been responses in Lebanon to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's suggestion that French forces back up the Lebanese Army, which would be deployed in the south. "The voice is Lebanon's but the hands are Syria's," he said, adding there is no chance of peace in Lebanon without an agreement with Syria.

He said there is no change in Hizbullah activities, perhaps

because of the ongoing struggle between the current and former Hizbullah secretary-generals. He also said Amal is trying to put itself on the map among the terror organizations vying for control in South Lebanon.

On a different issue, Ya'alon explained why he had sent a letter to the High Court protesting the indictment of four Duvdevan undercover officers. He said a vacuum had been created because commanders are not taking responsibility for operational incidents, and so the military police and judiciary are stepping in instead, even when the cases are not criminal.

PM: We can give the Palestinians autonomy, not a sovereign state

It is possible to reach an agreement with the Palestinians in which they have autonomy but not a state, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told coalition MKs in the Knesset yesterday.

According to an official briefing, Netanyahu said: "We want a generous autonomy [but one] which will leave the jurisdiction in central issues in our hands."

Netanyahu said MKs are ignoring the achievements of the past year. "There was terror. Today there is less terror. It's not a coincidence. It's because of the change in government and policy," he said.

Netanyahu said the disturbances in Hebron show the Palestinians are trying to use street violence to press their demands.

"We have forwarded them strong messages on the matter," he said. "They had expectations of attaining 92% of the territories. They won't get it. We are lowering their expectations."

He also reported the Palestinians tend to try to involve outside bodies such as the UN "to try to make us bend. We must be united," he said.

LIAT COLLINS

Swiss Holocaust fund to give \$11.6 million to Nazi victims

By MARILYN HENRY

and news agencies

ZURICH — Switzerland's Holocaust humanitarian fund will make a first payment of 17 million Swiss francs (\$11.6m.) to help needy Nazi victims, primarily in Eastern Europe, officials said yesterday.

The allocation — some 10 percent of the current value of the fund — will include Sfr 15m. for

Jewish victims and Sfr 2m. for other victims, including gypsies and homosexuals. Existing humanitarian agencies will receive the funds, to be passed on to individuals, said Rolf Bloch, the chairman of the fund and president of the Swiss Jewish community.

"We can be satisfied because we have sent a signal that we are serious about helping, that things are moving forward, and that we can

provide initial assistance to these primarily elderly people," Bloch told Swiss radio.

The first recipients could receive the payments by September or October, he said.

Survivors in Eastern Europe, who were labeled "double victims" because they also were excluded from the existing German reparations programs, have been getting special notice. There are an estimated 60,000 double victims in Eastern Europe.

It was not clear how the funds would be divided. In a statement, Bloch's panel gave these eligibility criteria: those who have received no effective economic aid to date; the elderly; double victims; and those in greatest material need.

Several observers said yesterday that they hoped the initial allocation would not be the last to survivors in Eastern Europe.

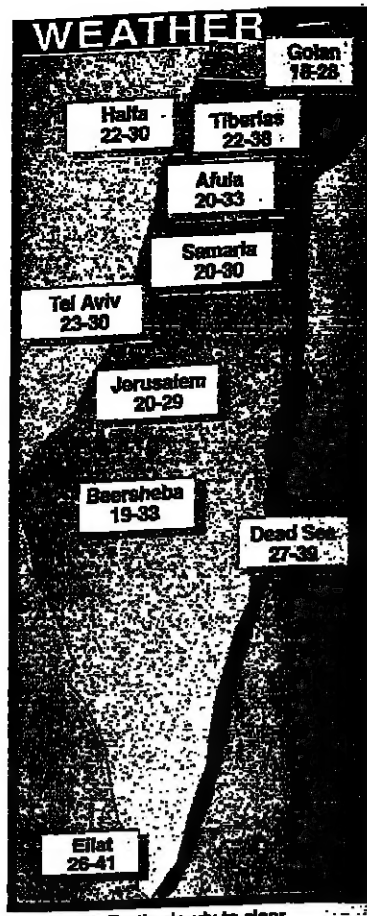
"If you divide this among all those who are eligible, this payment, by itself, would be only a few hundred francs, at best," said one advocate for the Eastern European survivors. "OK, that's nice, but if this is all they get, it is not going to make a dent."

Meanwhile, the Swiss banking ombudsman, Hanspeter Haeni, announced in Zurich yesterday that the Swiss banks have found the heirs to Sfr 10m. left by Holocaust victims. A "significant percentage was accounted for by a single testator," he said at a news conference.

He declined to give details of that account, saying he was bound to protect each owner's privacy. Haeni said the assets were included among \$12.1m. found in unclaimed accounts. The remaining unclaimed money was in accounts that were not related to the Holocaust, he said.

The Swiss banks agreed two weeks ago to hand over Haeni's job to an independent panel to be established by the banks, Swiss regulators, and a joint Swiss-Jewish commission headed by former US central bank chief Paul Volcker.

The banks also said they would publish a list of names of pre-1945 dormant accounts on July 23, using the Internet and other media to spread the information so that Holocaust survivors or their heirs could come forward.



Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND	WEATHER
Amsterdam	12	54	28	cloudy
Berlin	13	59	27	cloudy
Buenos Aires	26	48	18	cloudy
Cairo	24	78	23	cloudy
Chicago	17	53	14	cloudy
Copenhagen	14	57	24	cloudy
Frankfurt	13	55	23	cloudy
Geneva	11	52	22	cloudy
Helsinki	13	55	23	cloudy
Hong Kong	22	29	29	clear
Jakarta	20	82	15	clear
London	18	64	26	cloudy
Los Angeles	19	59	31	cloudy
Madrid	14	53	31	cloudy
Moscow	13	55	24	cloudy
New York	15	54	20	cloudy
Paris	16	59	28	cloudy
Rome	16	59	28	cloudy
Stockholm	16	61	28	cloudy
Sydney	17	81	34	cloudy
Tokyo	18	66	22	cloudy
Vienna	15	59	19	cloudy
Zurich	10	50	20	cloudy

Winning cards and numbers

The winning cards in yesterday's first Chance draw were the seven of spades, seven of hearts, eight of diamonds, and eight of clubs. The results of the second draw were the nine of spades, queen of hearts, jack of diamonds, and eight of clubs.

In yesterday's Lotto draw, the winning numbers were 1, 7, 16, 21, 22, and 49. The additional number was 48.

Over 80 children injured in road collision

DAVID HUDGE

More than 80 youngsters were injured — most of them lightly — in a collision between two buses and a semi-trailer at the southern access to Haifa yesterday afternoon.

A fleet of Magen David Ambulances ferried the injured to the Rambam, Bnei Zion and Carmel hospitals in Haifa. Two of those hurt were reported to be in moderate condition.

The accident happened on the coastal road on a bend just before the entrance to Haifa. The buses were carrying youngsters aged between eight and 12 from Kfar Yasif in the Galilee who had spent the day at the sea as part of a summer camp.

Haifa district police commander Eitan Stein said that the semi-trailer had apparently broken down in the right-hand lane of the two-lane northbound road.

Stein said it appeared, from initial inquiries, that the truck driver had managed to place a warning triangle behind the vehicle, as required by law in the case of breakdowns on the road. Nevertheless, one of the buses crashed into the rear of the lorry and it was then hit from the rear by the second bus.

Police are investigating the possibility that the second bus crashed into the rear of the leading bus after it tried to brake to avoid the stranded truck, thereby pushing it into the semi-trailer.

"It is not exactly clear whether the first bus hit the semi-trailer and the second crashed into the rear of the first, or whether there was first an accident between the two buses and as a result of that the first bus was pushed into the semi-trailer," Stein told reporters.

"I believe this will be the focus of the inquiry by those investigating the road accident — the question, that will have to be answered, of who caused the accident," he said.

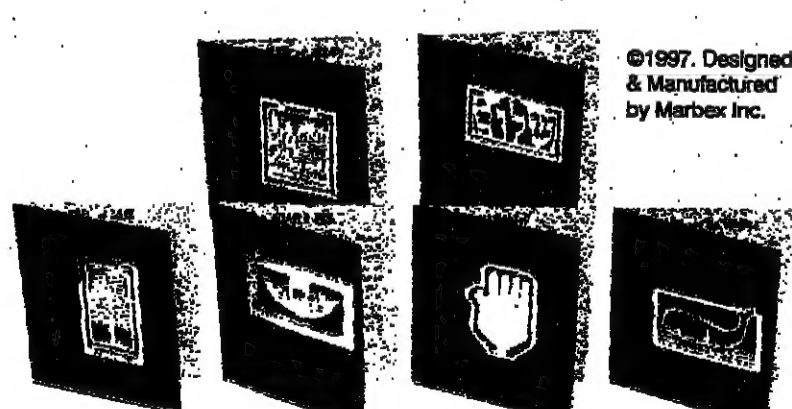
The drivers of all three vehicles were detained for questioning in the wake of the accident which closed the northbound lanes of the highway at the entrance to Haifa, almost opposite the Matam high-tech industrial park, for over two hours.

It seemed clear from police inquiries, however, that the buses which had been hired from a private company had not been adhering to the speed limit nor keeping a safe distance from vehicles in front. Police said that a total of 85 people, including the drivers and adults who had been aboard the buses, were hurt in the accident.

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